THE

WORKS

OF

LAURENCE STERNE.

COMPLETE IN EIGHT VOLUMES.

CONTAINING

I. THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF TRISTRAM SHANDY.
II. A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY THROUGH FRANCE AND ITALY, AND CONTINUATION.
III. SERMONS.—IV. LETTERS
V. THE FRAGMENT.
VI. THE KORAN.
VII. HISTORY OF A GOOD WARM WATCH-COAT.

WITH

A LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

VOLUME VII.

Berwick:

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1800.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

DAVID GARRICK, Esq.

WHEN I was asked to whom I should dedicate these Volumes, I carelessly answered, To no one—Why not? (replied the person who put the question to me.)—Because most Dedications look like begging a protection to the book. Perhaps a worse interpretation may be given to it. No, no! already so much obliged, I cannot, will not, put another tax upon the generosity of any friend of Mr Sterne's, or mine. I went home to my lodgings, and gratitude warmed my heart to such a pitch, that I vowed they should be dedicated to the man my father so much admired——who, with an unprejudiced eye, read, and approved his works, and moreover loved the man.——'Tis to Mr Garrick, then, that I dedicate these Genuine letters.

CAN I forget the sweet * Epitaph which proved Mr Garrick's friendship and opinion of him? 'Twas

* Shall Pride a heap of sculptur'd marble raise:
Some worthless, unmourn'd titled fool to praise,

And

a tribute to friendſhip—and as a tribute of my gratitude I dedicate theſe volumes to a man of underſtanding and feeling—Receive this, as it is meant—May you, dear Sir, approve of theſe letters, as much as Mr Sterne admired you—But Mr Garrick, with all his urbanity, can never carry the point half ſo far; for Mr Sterne was an enthuſiaſt, if it is poſſible to be one in favour of Mr Garrick.

THIS may appear a very ſimple dedication: but Mr Garrick will judge by his own ſenſibility, that I can feel more than I can expreſs; and I believe he will give me credit for all my grateful acknowledgments.

I AM, with every ſentiment of gratitude and eſteem,

DEAR SIR,

Your obliged humble Servant,

LONDON,
June 1775.

LYDIA STERNE DE MEDALLE.

PRE-

And ſhall we not by one poor grave-ſtone learn
Where Genius, Wit, and humour, ſleep with *Sterne?*

G D.

Mr Sterne was born at Clonmel, in Ireland, November 24th, 1713; and died, in London, March 18th, 1768.

PREFACE.

IN publiſhing theſe Letters, the Editor does but comply with her mother's requeſt, which was, that if any letters were publiſhed under Mr Sterne's name, thoſe ſhe had in her poſſeſſion (as well as thoſe that her father's friends would be kind enough to ſend to her) ſhould be likewiſe publiſhed——— She depends much on the candour of the Public for the favourable reception of them:——their being genuine *, ſhe thinks, and hopes, will render them not unacceptable——She has already experienced much benevolence and generoſity from her late father's friends——the rememberance of which will ever warm her heart with gratitude!

* Beſides the Letters printed by Mrs Medalle, thoſe written by Mr Sterne to Eliza, and a few others, are added to the preſent Edition.

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LETTERS.

LETTER I*.

TO MISS L——.

YES! I will ſteal from the world, and not a babbling tongue ſhall tell where I am—Echo ſhall not ſo much as whiſper my hiding place——Suffer thy imagination to paint it as a little ſun-gilt cottage, on the ſide of a romantic hill——Doſt thou think I will leave love and friendſhip behind me? No! they ſhall be my companions in ſolitude, for they will ſit down and riſe up with me in the amiable form of my L. We will be as merry and as innocent as our firſt parents in Paradiſe, before the arch fiend entered that undeſcribable ſcene.

THE kindeſt affections will have room to ſhoot and expand in our retirement, and produce ſuch fruit, as madneſs, and envy, and ambition have always

* This and the three ſubſequent letters were written by Mr Sterne to his wife, while ſhe reſided in Staffordſhire before their marriage.

ways killed in the bud.——Let the human tempeſt and hurricane rage at a diſtance, the deſolation is beyond the horizon of peace.—My L. has ſeen a polyanthus blow in December——ſome friendly wall has ſhelter'd it from the biting wind. No planetary influence ſhall reach us, but that which preſides and cheriſhes the ſweeteſt flowers,—God preſerve us! how delightful this proſpect in idea! We will build, and we will plant, in our own way —ſimplicity ſhall not be tortured by art—we will learn of nature how to live——ſhe ſhall be our alchymiſt, to mingle all the good of life into one ſalubrious draught.——The gloomy family of care and diſtruſt ſhall be baniſhed from our dwelling; guarded by thy kind and tutelar deity—we will ſing our choral ſongs of gratitude, and rejoice to the end of our pilgrimage.

Adieu, my L. Return to one who languiſhes for thy ſociety.

L. STERNE.

LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

YOU bid me tell you, my dear L. how I bore your departure for S——, and whether the valley where D'Eſtella ſtands retains ſtill its looks —or, if I think the roſes or jeſſamines ſmell as ſweet as when you left it——Alas! every thing has now loſt

loſt his reliſh and look! The hour you left D'Eſtella, I took to my bed.——I was worn out with fevers of all kinds, but moſt by that fever of the heart with which thou knoweſt well I have been waſting theſe two years—and ſhall continue waſting till you quit S——. The good Miſs S——, from the forebodings of the beſt of hearts, thinking I was ill, inſiſted upon my going to her.——What can be the cauſe, my dear L., that I never have been able to ſee the face of this mutual friend, but I feel myſelf rent to pieces? She made me ſtay an hour with her, and in that ſhort ſpace I burſt into tears a dozen different times——and in ſuch affectionate guſts of paſſion, that ſhe was conſtrained to leave the room, and ſympathize in her dreſſing room—I have been weeping for you both, ſaid ſhe, in a tone of the ſweeteſt pity—for poor L.'s heart, I have long known it—her anguiſh is as ſharp as yours—her heart as tender—her conſtancy as great——her virtues as heroic——Heaven brought you not together to be tormented. I could only anſwer her with a kind look, and a heavy ſigh—and returned home to your lodgings (which I have hired till your return) to reſign myſelf to miſery——Fanny had prepared me a ſupper—ſhe is all attention to me——but I ſat over it with tears; a bitter ſauce, my L., but I could eat it with no other——for the moment ſhe began to ſpread my little table, my heart fainted within me.——One ſolitary plate, one knife, one fork, one glaſs!——I gave a thouſand penſive, penetrating looks

looks at the chair thou haſt ſo often graced, in thoſe quiet and ſentimental repaſts—then laid down my knife and fork, and took out my handkerchief, and clapped it acroſs my face, and wept like a child. ——I do ſo this very moment, my L.; for, as I take up my pen, my poor pulſe quickens, my pale face glows, and tears are trickling down upon the paper, as I trace the word L——. O thou, bleſſed in thyſelf, and in thy virtues—bleſſed to all that know thee—to me moſt ſo, becauſe more do I know of thee than all thy ſex.——This is the philtre, my L., by which thou haſt charmed me, and by which thou wilt hold me thine, whilſt virtue and faith hold this world together.—This, my friend, is the plain and ſimple magic, by which I told Miſs —— I have won a place in that heart of thine, on which I depend ſo ſatisfied, that time, or diſtance, or change of every thing which might alarm the hearts of little men, create no uneaſy ſuſpence in mine——Walt thou to ſtay in S—— theſe ſeven years, thy friend, though he would grieve, ſcorns to doubt or to be doubted—'tis the only exception where ſecurity is not the parent of danger.——I told you poor Fanny was all attention to me ſince your departure—contrives every day bringing in the name of L.—She told me laſt night (upon giving me ſome hartſhorn) ſhe had obſerved my illneſs began the very day of your departure for S—; that I had never held up my head; but ſeldom, or ſcarce ever ſmiled; had fled from all ſociety—that ſhe verily believed

I was

I was broken-hearted, for ſhe had never entered the room, or paſſed by the door, but ſhe heard me ſigh heavily—that I neither ate, or ſlept, or took pleaſure in any thing as before.—Judge then, my L., can the valley look ſo well——or the roſes and jeſſamines ſmell ſo ſweet as heretofore? Ah me!—But adieu—the veſper bell calls me from thee to my GOD!

L. STERNE.

LETTER III.

TO THE SAME.

BEFORE now my L. has lodged an indictment againſt me in the high court of Friendſhip—I plead guilty to the charge, and entirely ſubmit to the mercy of that amiable tribunal.—Let this mitigate my puniſhment. if it will not expiate my tranſgreſſion—do not ſay that I ſhall offend again in the ſame manner, though a too eaſy pardon ſometimes occaſions a repetition of the ſame fault.—A miſer ſays, though I do no good with my money to-day, to-morrow ſhall be marked with ſome deed of beneficence.—The libertine ſays, let me enjoy this week in forbidding and luxurious pleaſures, and the next I will dedicate to ſerious thought and reflection.—The gameſter ſays, let me have one more chance with the dice, and I will never touch them more.——The knave of every profeſſion wiſhes to obtain but inde-

pen-

pendency, and he will become an honeſt man.——The female coquette triumphs in tormenting her inamorato, for fear, after marriage, he ſhould not pity her.

The apparation of the fifth inſtant (for letters may almoſt be called ſo) proved more welcome as I did not expect it. Oh! my L——, thou art kind indeed to make an apology for me: and thou never wilt aſſuredly repent of one act of kindneſs—for being thy debtor, I will pay thee with intereſt.——Why does my L. complain of the deſertion of friends?—Where does the human being live that will not join in this complaint?—It is a common obſervation, and perhaps too true, that married people ſeldom extend their regards beyond their own fire-ſide.——There is ſuch a thing as parſimony in eſteem, as well as money——yet as the one coſts nothing, it might be beſtowed with more liberality.—We cannot gather grapes from thorns, ſo we muſt not expect kind attachments from perſons who are wholly folded up in ſelfiſh ſchemes. I do not know whether I moſt deſpiſe, or pity ſuch characters——Nature never made an unkind creature—ill uſage, and bad habits, have deformed a fair and lovely creation.

My L.!—thou art ſurrounded by all the melancholy gloom of winter; wert thou alone, the retirement would be agreeable.—Diſappointed ambition might envy ſuch a retreat, and diſappointed love would ſeek it out.——Crowded towns, and buſy ſocieties,

cieties, may delight the unthinking and the gay——but ſolitude is the beſt nurſe of wiſdom.—Methinks I ſee my contemplative girl now in the garden, watching the gradual approaches of ſpring.—Doſt not thou mark with delight the firſt vernal buds? the ſnow drop, and primroſe, theſe early and welcome viſitors, ſpring beneath thy feet.—Flora and Pomona already conſider thee as their handmaid; and in a little time will load thee with their ſweeteſt bleſſings.——The feathered race are all thy own; and with them, untaught harmony will ſoon begin to cheer thy morning and evening walk,—Sweet as this may be, return—return—the birds of Yorkſhire will tune their pipes, and ſing as melodiouſly as thoſe of Staffordſhire.

ADIEU, my beloved L. thine too much for my *peace.*

L. STERNE.

LETTER IV.

TO THE SAME.

I HAVE offended her whom I ſo tenderly love——what could tempt me to it! but if a beggar was to knock at thy gate, would you not open the door and be melted with compaſſion?—I know thou wouldeſt, for Pity has erected a temple in thy boſom.—Sweeteſt and beſt of all human paſſions, let thy web of tenderneſs cover the penſive form of affli-

affliction, and ſoften the darkeſt ſhades of miſery!—I have reconſidered this apology; and, alas! what will it accompliſh? Arguments, however finely ſpun can never change the nature of things—Very true,—ſo a truce with them.

I HAVE loſt a very valuable friend by a ſad accident: and what is worſe, he has left a widow and five young children to lament this ſudden ſtroke.—If real uſefulneſs and integrity of heart could have ſecured him from this, his friends would not now be mourning his untimely fate———Theſe dark and ſeemingly cruel diſpenſations of Providence, often make the beſt of human hearts complain.——Who can paint the diſtreſs of an affectionate mother, made a widow in a moment, weeping in bitterneſs over a numerous, helpleſs and fatherleſs offspring!—GOD! theſe are thy chaſtiſements, and require (hard taſk!) a pious acquieſcence.

FORGIVE me this digreſſion, and allow me to drop a tear over a departed friend; and what is more excellent, an honeſt man. My L.! thou wilt feel all that kindneſs can inſpire in the death of———. The event was ſudden and thy gentle ſpirit would be more alarmed on that account—But my L. thou haſt leſs to lament, as old age was creeping on, and her period of doing good and being uſeful, was nearly over.—At ſixty years of age the tenement gets faſt out of repair, and the lodger with anxiety thinks of a diſcharge.—In ſuch a ſituation the poet might well ſay,

"The ſoul, uneaſy," &c.

My L. talks of leaving the country—may a kind angel guide thy ſteps hither!—Solitude at length grows tireſome.——Thou ſayſt thou wilt quit the place with regret——I think ſo too.—Does not ſomething uneaſy mingle with the very reflection of leaving it? It is like parting with an old friend, whoſe temper and company one has long been acquainted with.——I think I ſee you looking twenty times a day at the houſe——almoſt counting every brick, and pane of glaſs, and telling them at the ſame time, with a ſigh, you are going to leave them. —O happy modification of matter! they will remain inſenſible of thy loſs.—But how wilt thou be able to part with thy garden?——The recollection of ſo many pleaſing walks muſt have endeared it to you. The trees, the ſhrubs, the flowers, which thou reared with thy own hands—will they not droop and fade away ſooner upon thy departure?—Who will be the ſucceſſor to nurſe them in thy abſence? —Thou wilt leave thy name upon the myrtle tree. —If trees, and ſhrubs, and flowers, could compoſe an elegy, I ſhould expect a very plaintive one upon this ſubject.

Adieu, adieu! Believe me ever, ever thine,

L. STERNE.

LET.

LETTER V.

TO MRS F——

York, Tueſday, Nov. 19. 1759.

DEAR MADAM,

YOUR kind enquiries after my health, deſerve my beſt thanks.—What can give one more pleaſure, than the good wiſhes of thoſe we value?—I am ſorry you give ſo bad an account of your own health, but hope you will find benefit from tar-water————It has been of infinite ſervice to me ——I ſuppoſe, my good lady, by what you ſay in your letter, "that I am buſy writing an extraordinary "book," that your intelligence comes from York —the fountain head of all chit chat news—and—no matter.—Now for your deſire of knowing the reaſon of my turning author!—Why truly I am tired of employing my brains for other people's advantage.——'Tis a fooliſh ſacrifice I have made for ſome years to an ungrateful perſon.——I depend much upon the candour of the public, but I ſhall not pick out a jury to try the merit of my book amongſt ********, and—till you read my Triſtram, do not, like ſome people, condemn it.—— Laugh I am ſure you will at ſome paſſages.— I have hired a ſmall houſe in the Miniſter Yard for my wife and daughter—the latter is to begin dancing, &c.—if I cannot leave her a fortune, I will at leaſt

give her an aducation.—As I publiſh my works very ſoon, I ſhall be in town by March, and ſhall have the pleaſure of meeting with you.—All your friends are well, and ever hold you in the tame eſtimation that your ſincere friend does.

ADIEU, dear lady; believe me with every wiſh for your happineſs, your moſt faithful, &c.

LAURENCE STERNE.

LETTER VI.

TO DR ******.

Jan. 30. 1760.

DEAR SIR,

——*DE mortuis nil niſi bonum* is a maxim which you have ſo often of late urged in converſation, and in your letters (but in your laſt eſpecially,) with ſuch ſerioufneſs and ſeverity againſt me, as the ſuppoſed tranſgreſſor of the rule——that you have made me at length as ſerious and ſevere as yourſelf;——but, that the humours you have ſtirred up might not work too potently within me, I have waited four days to cool myſelf, before I would ſet pen to paper, to anſwer you. "*De mortuis nil niſi bonum*"—I declare I have conſidered the wiſdom and foundation of it over and over again, as diſpaſſionately and charitably as a good Chriſtian can: and, after all I can find nothing in it, or make more of

of it than a nonſenſical lullaby of ſome nurſe, put into Latin by ſome pedant, to be chanted by ſome hypocrite to the end of the world for the conſolation of departing lechers.—'Tis, I own, Latin; and I think that is all the weight it has——for, in plain Engliſh, 'tis a looſe, and futile poſition below a diſpute——"*you are not to ſpeak any thing of the dead, but what is good.*" Why ſo?—Who ſays ſo?—neither reaſon nor ſcripture.—Inſpired authors have done otherwiſe——and reaſon and common ſenſe, tell me that if the characters of paſt ages and men are to be drawn at all, they are to be drawn like themſelves; that is, with their excellencies, and with their foibles——and it is as much a piece of juſtice to the world, and to virtue too, to do the one as the other.—The ruling paſſion, *et les egarements du cœur*, are the very things which mark and diſtinguiſh a man's character; in which I would as ſoon leave out a man's head as his hobby horſe —However, if, like the poor devil of a painter, we muſt conform to this pious canon, *de mortuis &c.* which I own has a ſpice of piety in the *ſound* of it, and be obliged to paint both our angels and our devils out of the ſame pot——I then infer, that our Sydenhams and Sangrados, and our Bolingbrokes—are like entitled to ſtatues, and all the hiſtorians or ſatiriſts who have ſaid otherwiſe, ſince they departed this life, from Salluſt to S——e, are guilty of the crimes you charge me with, "cowardice and injuſtice."

BUT why cowardice? "Becauſe 'tis not courage "to attack a dead man who can't defend himſelf." ——But why do you doctors of the faculty attack ſuch a one with your inciſion knife? Oh! for the good of the living.—'Tis my plea—But I have ſomething more to ſay in my behalf—and it is this—I am not guilty of the charge though defenſible. I have not cut up Doctor Kunaſtrokius at all—I have juſt ſcratch'd him—and that ſcarce ſkin deep. —I do him firſt all honour—ſpeak of Kunaſtrokius as a great man—(be he whom he will;) and then moſt diſtantly hint at a droll foible in his character —and that not firſt reported (to the few who can even underſtand the hint) by me—but known before by every chambermaid and footman within the bills of mortality——But Kunaſtrokius, you ſay, was a great man—'tis that very circumſtance which makes the pleaſantry—for I could name at this inſtant a ſcore of honeſt gentlemen who might have done the very thing which Kunaſtrokius did, and ſee no joke in it at all—As to the failing of Kunaſtrokius, which you ſay can only be imputed to his friends as a misfortune—I ſee nothing like a misfortune in it to any friend or relation of Kunaſtrokius—that Kunaſtrokius upon occaſions ſhould ſit with ***, **** and *******—I have put theſe ſtars not *to hurt your worſhip's delicacy*—If Kunaſtrokius after all is too ſacred a Character to be even ſmiled at (which is all I have done,) he has had beter luck than his betters; In the ſame page (without imputation of cowardice)

I have

I have ſaid as much of a man of twice his wiſdom—and that is Solomon, of whom I have made the ſame remark, "That they were both great men—and "like all mortal men had each their ruling paſ-"ſion.

——THE conſolation you gave me, "That my "book, however, will be read enough to anſwer, "my deſign of raiſing a tax upon the public,"—is very unconſolatory—to ſay nothing how very mortifying! By H——n! an author is worſe treated than a common ***** at this rate—"*You will get "a penny by your ſins, and that's enough.*"—— Upon this chapter let me comment.——That I propoſed laying the world under contribution, when I ſet pen to paper—is what I own and I ſuppoſed I may be allowed to have that view in my head in common with every other writer, to make my labour of advantage to myſelf.

Do you not do the ſame; but I beg I may add, that whatever views I had of that kind, I had other views—the firſt of which was, the hopes of doing the world good by ridiculing what I thought deſerving of it—or of diſſervice to ſound learning, &c. —How I have ſucceeded my book muſt ſhew—and this I leave entirely to the world——but not to that little world *of your acquaintance*, whoſe opinion and ſentiments you call the general opinion of the beſt judges *without exception*, who all affirm (you ſay) that my book cannot be put into the hands of any woman of *character*. I hope you accept widows

doctor—for they are not *all* ſo ſqueamiſh, but I am told they are really of my party, in return of ſome good offices done their intereſts (in the 226th page of my firſt volume.) But for the chaſte married and chaſte unmarried part of the ſex—they muſt not read my book! Heaven forbid the ſtock of chaſtity ſhould be leſſened by the Life and Opinions of Triſtram Shandy——yes. his Opinions—it would certainly debauch 'em! GOD take them under his protection in his fiery trial, and ſend us plenty of Duennas, to watch the workings of their humours, till they have ſafely got through the whole work.—If this will not be ſufficient, may we have plenty of Sangrados, to pour in plenty of cold water, till this terrible fermentation is over—As for the *nummum iniloculo*, which you mention to me a ſecond time, I fear you think me very poor or in debt——I thank GOD, though I don't abound——that I have enough for a clean ſhirt every day—and a mutton-chop—and my contentment with this, has thus far (and I hope ever will) put me about ſtooping an inch for-it, even for ——'s eſtate.—Curſe on it, I like it not to that degree, nor envy *(you may be ſure)* any man who kneels in the dirt for it—ſo that howſoever I may fall ſhort of the ends propoſed in commencing author—I enter this *proteſt*, firſt, that my end was *honeſt*; and ſecondly, that I wrote, not to be *fed*, but to be *famous*. I am much obliged to Mr. Garrick, for this very favourable opinion——but why, dear Sir, had he done better in finding fault with

with it, than in commending it? to humble me! An author is not ſo ſoon humbled as you imagine—no, but to make the book better by caſtrations—that is ſtill *ſub judice*; and I can aſſure you upon this chapter, that the very paſſages and deſcriptions you propoſe that I ſhould ſacrifice in my ſecond edition, are what are beſt reliſhed by men of wit, and ſome others whom I eſteem as ſound critics—ſo that, upon the whole, I am ſtill kept up, if not above fear at leaſt above deſpair, and have ſeen enough to ſhew me the folly of an attempt of caſtrating my book to the prudiſh humours of particulars. I believe the ſhort cut would be to publiſh this letter at the beginning of the third volume, as an apology for the firſt and ſecond. I was ſorry to find a cenſure upon the inſincerity of ſome of my friends——I have no reaſon myſelf to reproach any one man—my friends have continued in the ſame opinions of my book, which they firſt gave me of them—many indeed have thought better of 'em, by conſidering them more; few worſe.

I am, Sir,

Your humble ſervant,

LAURENCE STERNE.

LETTER. VII.

TO DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.

[About April. 1760.]
Thurſday, 11 o'clock—Night.

DEAR SIR,

'TWAS for all the world like a cut acroſs my finger with a ſharp pen-knife. I ſaw the blood—gave it a ſuck—wrapt it up—and thought no more about it.

BUT there is more goes to the healing of a wound than this comes to:—a wound (unleſs it is a wound not worth talking of, but, by the by, mine is) muſt give you ſome pain after.——Nature will take her own way with it——it muſt ferment—it muſt digeſt.

THE ſtory you told me of Triſtram's pretended tutor, this morning———My letter by right ſhould have ſet out with this ſentence, and then the ſimile would not have kept you a moment in ſuſpenſe.

THIS vile ſtory, I ſay——though I then ſaw both how and where it wounded—I felt little from it at firſt——or, to ſpeak more honeſtly (though it ruins my ſimile,) I felt a great deal of pain from it; but affected an air uſual on ſuch accidents, of leſs feeling than I had.

I HAVE

I HAVE now got home to my lodging ſince the play (you aſtoniſhed me in it,) and have been unwrapping this ſelf-ſame wound of mine, and ſhaking my head over it this half hour.

WHAT the devil!—is there no one learned blockhead throughout the many ſchools of miſapplied ſcience in the Chriſtian world, to make a *tutor* of for my Triſtram?—*Ex quovis ligno non fit*—Are we ſo run out of ſtock, that there is no one lumber-headed, muddle headed, mortar-headed, pudding-headed *chap* amongſt our doctors?—Is there no one ſingle wight of much reading and no learning, amongſt the many children in my *mother's* nurſery, who bids high for this charge——but I muſt diſable my judgment by chooſing a Warburton?—Vengeance! have I ſo little concern for the honour of my hero?—Am I a wretch ſo void of ſenſe, ſo bereft of feeling for the figure he is to make in ſtory, that I ſhould chooſe a preceptor to rob him of all the immortality I intended him? Oh! dear Mr Garrick.

MALICE is ingenious—unleſs where the exceſs of it outwits itſelf—I have two comforts in this ſtroke of it;—the firſt is, that this one is partly of this kind; and ſecondly, that it is one of the number of thoſe which ſo unfairly brought poor Yorick to his grave. The report might draw blood, of the author of Triſtram Shandy—but could not harm ſuch a man as the author of the Divine Legation——GOD bleſs

him! though (by the by, and according to the natural courſe of decents) the bleſſing ſhould come from him to me.

PRAY, have you no intereſt, lateral or collateral, to get me introduced to his Lordſhip?

WHY do ye aſk?

MY dear Sir, I have no claim to ſuch an honour, but what ariſes from the honour and reſpect which, in the progreſs of my work, will be ſhewn the world I owe to ſo great a man.

WHILST I am talking of owing—I wiſh, my dear Sir, that any body would tell you how much I am indebted to you. I am determined never to do it myſelf, or ſay more upon the ſubject than this, that I am yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER VIII.

TO S—— C——, ESQ.

May, 1760.

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you ten thouſand thanks for the favour of your letter—and the account you give me of my wife and girl.—I ſaw Mr C——y to-night at Ranelagh, who tells me you have inoculated my

my friend Bobby. I heartily wiſh him well through, and hope in God all goes right.

On Monday we ſet out with a * grand retinue of Lord Rockingham's (in whoſe ſuit I move) for Windſor—they have contracted for fourteen hundred pounds for the dinner, to ſome general undertaker, of which the K. has bargained to pay one-third. Lord George Sackville was laſt Saturday at the opera, ſome ſay with great effrontery—others, with great dejection.

I have little news to add.—There is a ſhilling pamphlet † wrote againſt Triſtram.——I wiſh they would write a hundred ſuch.

Mrs Sterne ſays her purſe is light; will you, dear Sir, be ſo good as to pay her ten guineas, and I will reckon with you when I have the pleaſure of meeting you—— My beſt compliments to Mrs C. and all friends—Believe me, dear Sir, your obliged and faithful

L. STERNE.

LET-

* Prince Ferdinand, the Marquis of Rockingham, and Earl Temple, were installed Knights of the Garter, on Tuesday May 6th, 1760, at Windsor.

† "The Clockmakers outcry againſt the Author of "Triſtram Shandy." 8vo.

LETTER IX.

TO THE SAME.

May, 1760.

DEAR SIR,

I THIS moment received the favour of your kind letter.—The letter in the Ladies Magazine*, about me, was wrote by the noted Dr Hill, who wrote the Inſpector, and undertakes that magazine.——The people of York are very uncharitable to ſuppoſe any man ſo groſs a beaſt as to pen ſuch a character of himſelf.—In this great town no ſoul ever ſuſpected it for a thouſand reaſons—Could they ſuppoſe I ſhould be ſuch a fool as to fall foul upon Dr Warburton, my beſt friend by repreſenting him ſo weak a man—or by telling ſuch a lie of him—as his giving me a purſe, to buy of his tutorſhip for Triſtram!——or I ſhould be fool enough to own I had taken his purſe for that purpoſe.

You muſt know there is a quarrel between Dr Hill and Dr M——y, who was the phyſician meant at Mr Charles Stanhope's, and Dr Hill has changed the place on purpoſe to give M—y a lick.—Now that converſation (though perhaps true,) yet happened

* The Royal Female Magazine, for April, 1760.

ed at another place *, and with another physician; which I have contradicted in this city, for the honour of

* As the truth of this anecdote is not denied, it may gratify curiosity to communicate it in Dr Hill's own words. "At the last dinner that the late amiable Charles Stan-"hope gave to genius, Yorick was present. The good "old man was vexed to see a pedantic medicine-monger "take the lead, and prevent that pleasantry which good "wit and good wine might have occasioned, by a discourse "in the unintelligible language of his profession, con-"cerning the difference between the phrenitis and the "paraphrenitis, and the concomitant categories of the "mediastinum and pleura.

"Good-humoured Yorick saw the sense of the master "of the feast, and fell into the cant and jargon of physic, "as if he had been one of Radcliffe's travellers. The "vulgar practice," says he, "favours too much of me-"chanical principles; the venerable ancients were all "empirics; and the profession will never regain its an-"cient credit, till practice falls into the old tract again. "I am myself an instance; I caught cold by leaning on a "damp cushion, and, after sneezing and snivelling a fort-"night, it fell upon my breast: They blooded me, blister-"ed me, and gave me robs, and bobs, and lohocks, and "eclegmata; but I grew worse; for I was treated ac-"cording to the exact rules of the College. In short, "from an inflammation it came to an ADHESION, and all "was over with me. They advised me to Bristol, that "I might not do them the scandal of dying under their "hands; and the Bristol people, for the same reason, "consigned me over to Lisbon. But what do I? Why, "I considered an adhesion is, in plain English, only a "sticking of two things together, and that force enough "would pull them asunder. I bought a good ash pole, "and began leaping over all the walls and ditches in the "country From the height of the pole, I used to come "sous down upon my feet, like an ass when he tramples "upon a bull-dog; but it did not do. At last---when I

of my friend M——y, all which ſhows the abſurdity of York credulity and nonſenſe. Beſides, the account is full of falſehoods——firſt, with regard to the place of my birth, which was at Clonmel, in Ireland—the ſtory of a hundred pounds to Mrs W——*, not true, or of a *penſion promiſed;* the merit of which I diſclaimed—and indeed there are ſo many other things ſo untrue, and unlikely, to come from me, that the worſt enemy I have here never had a ſuſpicion—and, to end all, Dr Hill owns the paper.

I SHALL be down before May is out—I preach before the Judges on Sunday—My Sermons come out on Thurſday after—and I purpoſe, the Monday, at fartheſt, after that, to ſet out for York—I have bought a pair of horſes for that purpoſe—My beſt reſpects to your Lady—

I am, Dear Sir,
Your moſt obliged and faithful

L. STERNE.

P. S.

" had raiſed myſelf perpendicularly over a wall, I used " to fall exacly across the ridge of it, upon the side op- " poſite to the adheſion. This tore it off at once: and I " am as you ſee. Come fill a glaſs to the memory of the " empiric medicine." " If he had been asked elsewhere " about this diſorder, (for he really had a conſumptive " diſorder,) he would have anſwered, that he was cured " by Huxham's decoction of the bark, and the elixir of " vitriol."

* The widow of Mr Sterne's predeceſſor in the living of Coxwould.

P. S. I BEG pardon for this haſty ſcrawl, having juſt come from a concert where the D. of York performed.——I have received great notice from him, and laſt week had the honour of ſupping with him.

LETTER X.

TO DR WARBURTON, BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER.

York, June 9. 1760.

MY LORD,

NOT knowing where to ſend two ſets of my Sermons, I could think of no better expedient, than to order them into Berrenger's hands, who has promiſed me that he will wait upon your Lordſhip with them, the firſt moment he hears you are in town. The trueſt and humbleſt thanks I return to your Lordſhip, for the generoſity of your protection, and advice to me: by making a good uſe of the one, I will hope to deſerve the other. I wiſh your Lordſhip all the health and happineſs in this world: for I am,

Your Lordſhip's
Moſt obliged and
Moſt grateful Servant.

L. STERNE.

P. S.

P. S. I AM juſt ſitting down to go on with Triſtram, &c.—The ſcribblers uſe me ill; but they have uſed my betters much worſe.—for which may GOD forgive them.

LETTER XI.

TO THE REV. MR STERNE.

Prior-Park, June 15. 1760.

REVEREND SIR,

I HAVE your favour of the 9th inſtant, and am glad to underſtand you are got ſafe home, and employed again in your proper ſtudies and amuſements. You have it in your power to make that, which is an amuſement to yourſelf and others, uſeful to both: at leaſt, you ſhould, above all things, beware of its becoming hurtful to either, by any violations of decency and good manners; but I have already taken ſuch repeated liberties of adviſing you on that head, that to ſay more would be needleſs, or perhaps unacceptable.

WHOEVER is, in any way, well received by the public, is ſure to be annoyed by that peſt of the public, *profligate ſcribblers*. This is the common lot of ſucceſsful adventurers;—but ſuch have often a worſe evil to ſtruggle with, I mean the over officiouſneſs of their indiſcreet friends. There are two

Odes

Odes *, as they are called, printed by Dodſley. Whoever was the author, he appears to be a monſter of impiety and lewdneſs—yet, ſuch is the malignity of the ſcribblers, ſome have given them to your friend Hall;—and others, which is ſtill more impoſſible, to yourſelf; though the firſt Ode has the inſolence to place you both in a mean and a ridiculous light. But this might ariſe from a tale equally groundleſs and malignant, that you had ſhewn them to your acquaintances in MS. before they were given to the public. Nor was their being printed by Dodſley, the likelieſt means of diſcrediting the calumny.

About this time, another, under the maſk of friendſhip, pretended to draw your character, which was ſince publiſhed in a *Female Magazine* (for dulneſs, who often has as great a hand as the devil in deforming God's works of the creation, has *made them*, it ſeems *male* and *female*,) and from thence it was transferred into a *Chronicle* †. Pray have you read it, or do you know its author?

But of all theſe things, I dare ſay Mr Garrick, whoſe prudence is equal to his honeſty or his talents, has remonſtrated to you with the freedom of a friend. He knows the inconſtancy of what is called the

* Intituled, "Two Lyric Epiſtles; One to my Couſin "Shandy on his coming to Town; and the other to the "Grown Gentlewomen, the Miſſes of ****." 4to.

† The London Chronicle, May 6, 1760.

the Public, towards all, even the beſt intentioned, of thoſe who contribute to us pleaſure or amuſement. He (as every man of honour and diſcretion would, has availed himſelf of the public favour, to regulate the taſte, and, in his proper ſtation, to reform the manners of the faſhionable world;—while, by a well-judged œconomy, he has provided againſt the temptations of a mean and ſervile dependency of the follies and vices of the great.

In a word, be aſſured, there is no one more ſincerely wiſhes you welfare and happineſs, than,

Reverend Sir,

W. C.

LETTER XII.

TO MY WITTY WIDOW, MRS F——.

Coxwould, Aug. 3. 1760.

MADAM,

WHEN a man's brains are as dry as a ſqueez'd Orange—and he feels he has no more conceit in him than a Mallet, 'tis in vain to think of ſitting down, and writing a letter to a lady of your wit, unleſs in the honeſt John-Trot-Style of, *yours of the 15th inſtant came ſafe to hand, &c.* which, by the by, looks like a letter of buſineſs; and you know very well, from the firſt letter I had the honour to write to you, I am a man of no buſineſs at all. This

vile

vile plight I found my genius in, was the reaſon I have told Mr ——, I would not write to you till the next poſt—hoping by that time to get ſome ſmall recruit at leaſt of vivacity, if not wit, to ſet out with;—but upon ſecond thoughts, thinking a bad letter in ſeaſon—to be better than a good one out of it—this ſcrawl is the conſequence, which, if you will burn the moment you get it—I promiſe to ſend you a fine ſet eſſay in the ſtyle of your female epiſtolizers, cut and trimm'd at all points.—God defend me from ſuch, who never yet knew what it was to ſay I write one premeditated word in my whole life—for this reaſon I ſend you this with pleaſure, becauſe wrote with the careleſs irregularity of an eaſy heart. ——Who told you, Garrick wrote the medley for Beard?—'Twas wrote in his houſe, however, and before I left town.—I deny it—I was not loſt two days before I left town.——I was loſt all the time I was there, and never found till I got to this Shandy-caſtle of mine.——Next winter I intend to ſojourn amongſt you with more decorum, and will neither be loſt or found any where.

Now I wiſh to God I was at your elbow—I have juſt finiſhed one volume of Shandy, and I want to read it to ſome one who I know can taſte and reliſh humour—this by the way, is a little impudent in me—for I take the thing for granted, which their high mightineſſes the world have yet to determine—but I mean no ſuch thing——I could wiſh only to have your opinion—ſhall I, in truth, give you mine?

—I

—I dare not—but I will; provided you keep it to yourſelf—know then that I think there is more laughable humour,—with an equal degree of Cervantic ſatire—if not more than in the laſt—but we are bad judges of the merit of our children.

I RETURN you a thouſand thanks for your friendly congratulations upon my habitation—and I will take care you ſhall never wiſh me but well, for I am, Madam,

With great eſteem and truth,
Your moſt obliged,
L. STERNE.

P. S. I HAVE wrote this ſo vilely and ſo precipitately, I fear you muſt carry it to a decypherer ——I beg you'll do me the honour to write—otherwiſe you draw *me* in, inſtead of Mr —— drawing *you* into a ſcrape——for I ſhould ſorrow to have a *taſte* of ſo agreeable a correſpondent—and *no more*. Adieu.

LETTER XIII.

TO S—— C——, ESQ.

London, Chriſtmas Day, 1760.

MY

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE been in ſuch a continual hurry ſince the moment I arrived here—what with my books, and what with viſitors and viſitings, that it was not in my power ſooner to ſit down and acknowledge the favour of your obliging letter; and to thank you for the moſt friendly motives which led you to write it. I am not much in pain upon what gives my kind friends at Stillington ſo much on the chapter of *Noſes*—becauſe, as the principal ſatire throughout that part is levelled at thoſe learned block heads who, in all ages, have waſted their time and much learning upon points as fooliſh——it ſhifts off the idea of what you fear, to another point—and 'tis thought here very good——'twill paſs muſter—I mean not with all—no! I ſhall be attacked and pelted, either from cellars or garrets, write what I will—and beſides, muſt expect to have a party againſt me of many hundreds—who either do not——or will not laugh.—'Tis enough if I divide the world;—at leaſt I will reſt contented with it.—wiſh you was here to ſee what changes of looks and political reaſoning have taken place in every company and coffee-houſe ſince laſt year; we ſhall be ſoon Pruſſians and Anti-Pruſſians, B——s and Anti-B——s, and thoſe diſtinctions will juſt do as well as Whig and Tory—and for aught I know ſerve the ſame ends.—The King ſeems reſolved to bring all things back to their original principles, and to ſtop the torrent of corruption

corruption and lazineſs.——He riſes every morning at ſix to do buſineſs—rides out at eight to a minute ——returns at nine to give himſelf up to his people. ——By perſiſting, 'tis thought he will oblige his Miniſters and dependants to diſpatch affairs with him many hours ſooner than of late——and 'tis much to be queſtioned whether they will not be enabled to wait upon him ſooner, by being freed from long levees of their own, and applications; which will in all likelihood be transferred from them directly to himſelf—the preſent ſyſtem being to remove that phalanx of great people, which ſtood betwixt the throne and the ſubjects, and ſuffer them to have immediate acceſs, without the intervention of a cabal ——(this is the language of others:) however, the King gives every thing himſelf, knows every thing and weighs every thing maturely, and then is inflexible—this puts old ſtagers off their game—how it will end we are all in the dark.

'Tis feared the war is quite over in Germany never was known ſuch havoc amongſt troops—I was told yeſterday by a colonel from Germany, that out of two battalions of nine hundred men, to which he belonged, but ſeventy one are left!——Prince Ferdinand has ſent word, 'tis ſaid, that he muſt have forty thouſand men directly to take the field—and with proviſions for them too, for he can but ſubſiſt them for a fortnight.—I hope this will find you a

got to York——I beg my compliments to the amiable Mrs Croft, &c. &c.

THOUGH I purpoſed going firſt to Golden-Square, yet fate has thus long diſpoſed of me——ſo I have never been able to ſet a foot towards that quarter.

I am, dear Sir,
Your's affectionately,
L. STERNE.

LETTER XIV.

TO THE SAME.

[About Jan. 1760.]

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE juſt time to acknowledge the favour of yours, but not to get the two prints you mention—which ſhall be ſent you by the next poſt—I have bought them, and lent them to Miſs Gilbert, but will aſſuredly ſend for them and incloſe them to you:—I will take care to get your pictures well copied, and at a moderate price. And if I can be of farther uſe, I beſeech you to employ me; and from time to time will ſend you an account of whatever may be worth tranſmitting.—The ſtream now ſets in ſtrong againſt the German war. Loud complaints of——making a trade of the war, &c. &c——much expected from L. Granby's evidence to theſe

matters, who is expected every hour;—the King wins every day upon the people, shews himself much at the play (but at no opera,) rides out with his brothers every morning, half an hour after seven, till nine—returns with them—spends an hour with them at breakfast, and chat——and then sits down to business. I never dined at home once since I arrived—am fourteen dinners deep engaged just now, and fear matters will be worse with me in that point than better.—As to the main points in view, at which you hint—all I can say is, that I see my way, and unless Old Nick throws the dice——shall, in due time, come off winner—Tristram will be out the twentieth——there is a great rout made about him before he enters the stage——whether this will be of use or no, I can't say——some wits of the first magnitude here, both as to wit and station, engage me success—Time will shew.

Adieu.

LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

[March 1761.]

DEAR SIR,

SINCE I had the favour of your obliging letter, nothing has happened, or been said one day, which has not been contradicted the next: so having

having little certain to write, I have forbore writing at all, in hopes every day of ſomething worth filling up a letter. We had the greateſt expectations yeſterday that ever were raiſed, of a pitched battle in the Houſe of Commons, wherein Mr Pitt was to have entered and thrown down the gauntlet, in defence of the German war.—There never was ſo full a houſe—the gallery full to the top—I was there all the day——when lo! a political fit of the gout ſeized the great combatant—he entered not the liſts——Beckford got up, and begged the Houſe, as he ſaw not his right honourable friend there, to put off the debate—It could not be done: ſo Beckford roſe up, and made a moſt long, paſſionate, incoherent ſpeech, in defence of the Germanic war—but very ſevere upon the unfrugal manner it was carried on——in which he addreſſed himſelf principally to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and laid on him terribly.—It ſeems the chancery of Hanover had laid out 350,000 pounds, on account, and brought in our treaſury debtor——and the grand debate was, for an honeſt examination of the particulars of this extravagant account, and for vouchers to authenticate it——Legge anſwered Beckford very rationally, and coolly——Lord N. ſpoke long——Sir F. Daſhwood maintained the German war was moſt pernicious—Mr C—— of Surrey ſpoke well againſt the account, with ſome others——L. Barrington at laſt got up, and ſpoke half an hour with great plainneſs, and temper—explained a great many

hidden ſprings relating to theſe accounts, in favour of the late King, and told two or three converſations which had paſſed between the King and himſelf, relative to theſe expences—which caſt great honour upon the King's character. This was with regard to the money the King had ſecretly furniſhed out of his pocket to leſſon the account of the Hanover-ſcore brought us to diſcharge.

Beckford and Barrington abuſed all who ſought for peace, and joined in the cry for it; and Beckford added, that the reaſons of wiſhing a peace now, were the ſame as the peace of Utrecht—that the people behind the curtain could not both maintain the war, and their places too, ſo were for making another ſacrifice of the nation to their own intereſts.—After all—the cry for a peace is ſo general, that it will certainly end in one——Now for myſelf——

One half of the town abuſe my book as bitterly, as the other half cry it up to the ſkies—the beſt is, they abuſe and buy it, and at ſuch a rate, that we are going on with a ſecond edition, as faſt as poſſible.

I am going down for a day or two with Mr Spencer, to Wimbleton; on Wedneſday there is to be a grand aſſembly at Lady N——. I have enquired every where about Stephen's affair, and can hear nothing—My friend, Mr Charles Townſhend, will be

be now Secretary of War *—he bid me wiſh him joy of it though not in poſſeſſion.—I will aſk him —and depend, my moſt worthy friend, that you ſhall not be ignorant of what I learn from him—Believe me ever, ever,

Yours,

L. S.

LETTER XVI.

TO THE SAME.

[April 1761.]

MY DEAR SIR,

A STRAIN which I got in my wriſt by a terrible fall, prevented my acknowledging the favour of your obliging letter. I went yeſterday morning to breakfaſt with Mr V—, who is a kind of right-hand man to the Secretary, on purpoſe to enquire about the propriety or feaſibility, of doing what you wiſh me—and he has told me an anecdote which, had you been here, would, I think, have made it wiſer to have deferred ſpeaking about the affair a month hence than now: it is this—You muſt know that the number of officers who have left their regiments in Germany, for the pleaſures of the town, have been long a topic for merriment; as you ſee them in St James' Coffee-houſe, and the Park,

* He was appointed Secretary at War the 24th March 1761.

every hour, enquiring, open mouth, how things go on in Germany, and what news;—when they ſhould have been there to have furniſhed news themſelves —But the worſt part has been, that many of them have left their brother officers on their duty, and in all the fatigues of it, and have come with no end but to make friends, to be put unfairly over the *heads of thoſe* who were left riſking *their lives*.——In this attempt there have been ſome but too ſucceſsful, which has juſtly raiſed ill-blood and complaints from the officers who ſtaid behind.—The upſhot has been, that they have every ſoul been ordered off, and woe be to him ('tis ſaid) who ſhall be found liſtening! Now juſt to mention our friend's caſe whilſt this cry is on foot, I think would be doing more hurt than good, but if you think otherwiſe, I will go with all my heart, and mention it to Mr Townſhend; for to do more I am too inconſiderable a perſon to pretend to.——You made me and my friends here very merry with the accounts current at York, of my being forbid the Court—but they do not conſider what a conſiderable perſon they make of me, when they ſuppoſe either my going, or my not going there, is a point that ever enters the King's head—and for thoſe about him, I have the honour either to ſtand ſo perſonally well known to them, or to be ſo well repreſented by thoſe of the firſt rank, as to fear no accident of that kind.

I THANK GOD (B——'s excepted) I have never yet made a friend or connection I have forfeited,

or

or done ought to forfeit——but, on the contrary, my true character is better underſtood; and where I had one friend laſt year, who did me honour, I have three now.—If my enemies knew, that by this rage and ill will, they were effectually ſerving the intereſts both of myſelf and works, they would be more quiet——but it has been the fate of my betters, who have found, that the way to fame, is like the way to heaven—through much tribulation—and till I ſhall have the honour to be as much maltreated as Rabelais and Swift were, I muſt continue humble;——for I have not filled up the meaſure of half their *perſecutions*.

THE Court is turning topſy turvy. Lord Bute, le premier *——Lord Talbot, to be Groom of the Chambers † in room of the D—of R——d—Lord Halifax to Ireland ‡——Sir F. Daſhwood in Talbot's place—Pitt ſeems unmoved—a peace inevitable—Stocks riſe—the peers this moment kiſſing hands, &c. &c. (this week may be chriſtened the kiſs hands week) for a hundred changes will happen in conſequence of theſe. Pray preſent my compliments

* Lord Bute was appointed Secretary of State on the 25th of March 1761.

† Lord Talbot was appointed Steward of the Household on the same day.

‡ Lord Halifax was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on the 25th of March 1761.

pliments to Mrs C. and all friends, and believe me, with the greateſt fidelity,

Your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

P. S. Is it not ſtrange that Lord Talbot ſhould have power to remove the Duke of R——d?

PRAY when you have read this, ſend the news to Mrs Sterne.

LETTER XVII.

TO J— H— S—, ESQ.

Coxwould, July 28. 1761.

DEAR H——,

I SYMPATHISED for, or with you, on the detail you give me of your late agitations—and would willingly have taken my horſe, and trotted to the oracle to have enquired into the etymology of all your ſufferings, had I not been aſſured, that all that evacuation of bilious matter, with all that abdominal motion attending it (both which are equal to a month's purgation and exerciſe) will have left you better than it found you——Need one go to D——, to be told that all kind of mild (mark, I am going to talk more fooliſhly than your apothecary) opening, ſaponacicus, dirty-ſhirt, ſud-waſhing liquors are proper

for

for you, and consequently all styptical potations, death and destruction?——if you had not shut up your gall-ducts by these, the glauber salts could not have hurt——as it was, 'twas like a match to the gunpowder, by raising a fresh combustion, as all physic does at first, so that you have been let off—nitre, brimstone, and charcoal (which is blackness itself) all at one blast——'twas well the piece did not burst, for I think it underwent great violence, and as it is proof, will, I hope, do much service in this militating world—Panty * is mistaken: I quarrel with no one.—There was that coxcomb of —— in the house, who lost temper with me, for no reason upon earth but that I could not fall down and worship a brazen image of learning and eloquence, which he set up, to the persecution of all true believers——I sat down upon *his altar*, and whistled in the time of his divine service——and broke down his carved work, and kicked his incense pot to the D——, so he retreated, *sed non sine selle in corde suo.*—I have wrote a clerum; whether I shall take my doctor's degrees or no—I am much in doubt, but I trow not.—I go on with Tristram—I have bought seven hundred books at a purchase, dog cheap—and many good—and I have been a week getting them set up in my best room here—why do you not transport yours to town? but I talk like a fool.—This will

* The Reverend Mr R---- L----.

will juſt catch you at your Spaw—I wiſh you *incolumem æpud Londinum*—do you go there for good and all—or ill?—I am, dear couſin,

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Coxwould, [about Auguſt,] 1761.

DEAR H——,

I REJOICE you are in London—reſt you there in peace; here 'tis the devil.—You was a good prophet.—I wiſh myſelf back again, as you told me I ſhould—but not becauſe a thin, death doing, Peſtiferous, north-eaſt wind blows in a line directly from Crazy-caſtle turret full upon me in this cuckoldly retreat (for I value the north-eaſt wind and all its powers not a ſtraw)——but the tranſition from rapid motion to abſolute reſt was too violent.——I ſhould have walked about the ſtreets of York ten days, as a proper medium to have paſſed through, before I entered upon my reſt. I ſtaid but a moment, and I have been here but a few, to ſatisfy me I have not managed my miſeries like a wiſe man—and if God, for my conſolation under them, had not poured forth the ſpirit of Shandeiſm into me, which will not ſuffer me to think two moments upon any grave ſubject, I would, elſe, juſt now lie down and

die

die——die——and yet, in half an hour's time, I'll lay a guinea, I ſhall be as merry as a monkey——and as miſchievous too, and forget it all—ſo that this is but a copy of the preſent train running croſs my brain.—And ſo you think this curſed ſtupid—but that, my dear H., depends much upon the quota hora of your ſhabby clock: if the pointer of it is in any quarter between ten in the morning, or four in the afternoon——I give it up—or if the day is obſcured by dark engendering clouds of either wet or dry weather, I am ſtill loſt—but who knows but it may be five—and the day as fine a day as ever ſhone upon the earth ſince the deſtruction of Sodom——and peradventure your honour may have got a good hearty dinner to day, and eat and drank your intellectuals into a placiduliſh and a blanduliſh amalgama——to bear nonſenſe: ſo much for that.

'Tis as cold and churliſh juſt now, as (if God had not pleaſed it to be ſo) it ought to have been in bleak December, and therefore I am glad you are where you are, and where (I repeat it again) I wiſh I was alſo——Curſe of poverty, and abſence from thoſe we love!—they are too great evils which embitter all things—and yet with the firſt I am not haunted much.——As to matrimony, I ſhould be a beaſt to rail at it, for my wife is eaſy——but the world is not—and had I ſtaid from her a ſecond longer, it would have been a burning ſhame—elſe ſhe declares herſelf happier without me——but not in anger is this declaration made——but in pure ſober

good

good ſenſe, built on ſound experience——ſhe hopes you will be able to ſtrike a bargain for me before this time twelvemonth, to lead a bear round Europe: and from this hope from you, I verily believe it is, that you are ſo high in her favour at preſent——She ſwears you are a fellow of wit, though humorous; a funny, jolly ſoul, though ſomewhat ſplenetic; and (bating the love of women,) as honeſt as *gold* ——how do you like the ſimile?——Oh, Lord! now are you going to Ranelagh to-night, and I am ſitting, ſorrowful as the prophet was, when the voice cried out to him and ſaid, "What doſt thou here, Elijah?"—'Tis well the ſpirit does not make the ſame at Coxwould——for unleſs for the few ſheep left me to take care of, in this wilderneſs, I might as well, nay better, be at Mecca——When we find we can, by a ſhifting of places, run away from ourſelves, what think you of a jaunt there, before we finally pay a viſit to the *vale of Jehoſhaphat?*—As ill a name as we have, I truſt I ſhall one day or other ſee you face to face—ſo tell the two colonels, if they love good company, to live righteouſly and ſoberly, as *you do*, and then they will have no doubts or dangers within or without them——Preſent my beſt and warmeſt wiſhes to them, and adviſe the eldeſt to prop up his ſpirits, and get a rich dowager before the concluſion of the peace—why will not the advice ſuit both, *par nobile fratrum?*

To-morrow morning (if Heaven permit) I begin

the

the fifth volume * of Shandy——I care not a curſe for the critics—I'll load my vehicle with what goods *he* ſends me, and they may take 'em off my hands, or let them alone——I am very valorous—and 'tis in proportion as we retire from the world, and ſee it in its true dimenſions, that we deſpiſe it—no bad rant!——God above bleſs you! You know I am

Your affectionate Couſin,

LAURENCE STERNE.

WHAT few remain of the Demoniacs, greet ——and write me a letter, if you are able, as fooliſh as his.

LETTER XIX.

TO LADY ——.

Coxwould, Sept. 21. 1761.

I RETURN to my new habitation, fully determined to write as hard as can be, and thank you moſt cordially, my dear lady, for your letter of congratulation upon my Lord Fauconberg's having preſented me with the curacy of this place——though your congratulation comes ſomewhat of the lateſt, as I have been poſſeſſed of it ſome time.—I hope I have been of ſome ſervice to his Lordſhip,

* Alluding to the firſt edition.

and he has ſufficiently requited me.—'Tis ſeventy guineas a year in my pocket, though worth a hundred—but it obliges me to have a curate to officiate at Sutton and Stillington.——'Tis within a mile of his Lordſhip's ſeat and park. 'Tis a very agreeable ride out in the chaiſe I purchaſed for my wife. ——Lyd has a poney which ſhe delights in.—— Whilſt they take theſe diverſions, I am ſcribbling away at my Triſtram. Theſe two volumes are, I think, the beſt.——I ſhall write as long as I live ——'tis, in fact my hobby-horſe: and ſo much am I delighted with my uncle Toby's imaginary character, that I am become an enthuſiaſt.——My Lydia helps to copy for me——and my wife knits, and liſtens as I read her chapters.—The coronation of his Majeſty (whom God preſerve!) has coſt me the value of an ox, which is to be roaſted whole in the middle of the town, and my pariſhioners will, I ſuppoſe, be very merry upon the occaſion.—You will then be in town and feaſt your eyes with a ſight, which 'tis to be hoped will not be in either of our powers to ſee again—for in point of age we have about twenty years the ſtart of his Majeſty.——And now, my dear friend, I muſt finiſh this—and with every wiſh for your happineſs conclude myſelf your moſt ſincere well-wiſher and friend,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER XX.

TO DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.

Paris, Jan. 31. 1762.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THINK not, becauſe I have been a fortnight in this metropolis without writing to you, that therefore I have not had you and Mrs Garrick a hundred times in my head and heart—heart! yes, yes, ſay you—but I muſt not waſte paper in *badinage* this poſt, whatever I do the next. Well! here I am, my friend, as much improved in my health, for the time, as ever your friend could wiſh, or at leaſt your faith give credit to——By the by I am ſomewhat worſe in my intellectuals, for my head is turned round with what I ſee, and the unexpected honours I have met with here. Triſtram was almoſt as much known here as in London, at leaſt among your men of condition and learning, and has got me introduced into ſo many circles ('tis *comme a Londres.*) I have juſt now a fortnight's dinners and ſuppers upon my hands—My application to the Count de Choiſeul goes on ſwimmingly, for not only Mr Pelletiere (who, by the by, ſends ten thouſands civilities to you and Mrs Garrick) has undertaken my affair, but the count de Limbourgh—the Baron d' Holbach has offered any ſecurity for the inoffenſive-

neſs of my behaviour in France——'tis more, you rogue! than you will do—This Baron is one of the moſt learned nobleman here, the great protector of wits, and the Scavans who are no wits—keeps open houſe three days a week—his houſe is now, as yours was to me, my own—he lives at great expence—'Tis an odd incident when I was introduced to the Count de Biſſie, which I was at his deſire——I found him reading Triſtram——this grandee does me great honours, and gives me leave to go a private way through his apartments into the palace royal, to view the duke of Orlean's collections, every day I have time—I have been at the doctors of Sorbonne—I hope in a fortnight to break through, or rather from the delights of this place, which in the *ſcavoir vivre*, exceeds all the palaces, I believe, in this ſection of the globe——

I AM going, when this letter is wrote, with Mr Fox and Mr Maccartney to Verſailles—the next morning I wait upon Monſ. Titon, in company with Mr Maccartney, who is known to him, to deliver your commands. I have brought you the pamphlet upon theatrical, or rather tragical declamation——I have bought another in verſe, worth reading, and you will receive them, with what I can pick up this week, by a ſervant of Mr Hodges, whom he is ſending back to England.

I WAS laſt night with Mr Fox to ſee Mademoiſelle Clairon in *Iphigenie*—ſhe is extremely great—would to God you had one or two like her—what a luxury, to ſee you with one of ſuch powers in the

ſame intereſting ſcene!——But 'tis too much—Ah! Preville! thou art Mercury himſelf—By virtue of taking a couple of boxes, we have beſpoke, this week *The Frenchman in London*, in which Preville! is to ſend us home to ſupper *all happy*—I mean about fifteen or ſixteen Engliſh of diſtinction who are now here, and live well with each other.

I AM under great obligations to Mr Pitt, who has behaved in every reſpect to me like a man of good breeding, and good nature—In a poſt or two, I will write again—Foley is an honeſt ſoul—I could write ſix volumes of what has paſſed comically in this great ſcene, ſince theſe laſt fourteen days——but more if his hereafter.—We are all going into mourning: nor you, nor Mrs Garrick, would know me, if you met me in my *remiſe*—Bleſs you both! Service to Mrs Denis. Adieu, adieu!

L. S.

LETTER XXI.

TO LADY D——.

London *, Feb. 1. 1762.

YOUR Ladyſhip's kind enquiries after my health are indeed kind, and of a piece with the reſt of your character. Indeed I am very ill, having broke a veſſel in my lungs—hard writing in

* This Letter, though dated from London, was evidently written at Paris.

the ſummer, together with preaching, which I have not ſtrength for, is ever fatal to me—but I cannot avoid the latter yet, and the former is too pleaſurable to be given up—I believe I ſhall try if the ſouth of France will not be of ſervice to me—— his G. of Y. has moſt humanely given me the permiſſion for a year or two—— I will ſet off with great hopes of its efficacy, and ſhall write to my wife and daughter to come and join me at Paris, elſe my ſtay could not be ſo long—" Le Fevre's ſtory has beguiled " your Ladyſhip of your tears," and the thought of the accuſing ſpirit flying up to heaven's chancery with the oath, you are kind enough to ſay is ſublime —— my friend, Mr Garrick, thinks ſo too, and I am moſt vain of his approbation—your Ladyſhip's opinion adds not a little to my vanity.

I WISH I had time to take a little excurſion to Bath, were it only to thank you for all the obliging things you ſay in your letter—— but 'tis impoſſible —— accept at leaſt my warmeſt thanks—— If I could tempt my friend Mr H. to come to France, I ſhould be truly happy—If I can be of any ſervice to you at Paris, command him who is, and ever will be,

Your Ladyſhip's faithful

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

TO DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.

Paris, March 19. 1762.

DEAR GARRICK,

THIS will be put into your hands by Dr Shippen, a phyſician, who has been here ſome time with Miſs Poyntz, and is this moment ſetting off for your metropolis; ſo I ſnatch the opportunity of writing to you and my kind friend Mrs Garrick.—I ſee nothing like her here, and yet I have been introduced to one half of their beſt Goddeſſes, and in a month more ſhall be admitted to the ſhrines of the other half—but I neither worſhip—or fall (much) upon my knees before them: but, on the contrary, have converted many unto Shandeiſm ——For be it known, I Shandy it away fifty times more than I was ever wont, talk more nonſenſe than ever you heard me talk in your days—and to all ſorts of people. *Qui le diable eſt cet homme la* —— ſaid Choiſeul t'other day——*ce Chevalier Shandy* ——You'll think me as vain as a devil, was I to tell you the reſt of the dialogue—whether the bearer knows it or no, I know not—'Twill ſerve up after ſupper, in Southampton-ſtreet, among other ſmall diſhes, after the fatigues of Richard III.—O God!

they have nothing here which gives the nerves ſo ſmart a blow, as thoſe great characters in the hands of Garrick! but I forget I am writing to the man himſelf ——The devil take (as he will) theſe tranſports of enthuſiaſm! A-propos!——the whole city of Paris is *bewitch'd* with the comic opera; and if it was not for the affair of the Jeſuits, which takes up one half of our talk, the comic opera would have it all—It is a tragical nuiſance in all companies as it is, and was it not for ſome ſudden ſtarts and ſhades——of Shandeiſm, which now and then either break the thread or entangle it ſo, that the devil himſelf would be puzzled in winding it off—I ſhould die a martyr—This by the way I never will.——

I SEND you over ſome of theſe comic operas by the bearer, with the *Sallon*, a ſatire—The French comedy, I ſeldom viſit it—They act ſcarce any thing but tragedies—and the Clairon is great, and Mademoiſelle Dumeſnil, in ſome places, ſtill greater than her—yet I cannot bear preaching—I fancy I got a ſurfeit of it in my younger days—There is a tragedy to be damn'd to-night——Peace be with it, and the gentle brain which made it! I have ten thouſand things to tell you I cannot write—I do a thouſand things which cut no figure *but in the doing* ——and as in London, I have the honour of having done and ſaid a thouſand things I never did or dreamed of—and yet I dream abundantly——If the devil ſtood behind me in the ſhape of a courier I could not write faſter than I do, having five letters more

to

to diſpatch by the ſame gentleman; he is going into another ſection of the globe, and when he has ſeen you, he will depart in peace.

THE Duke of Orleans has ſuffered my portrait to be added to the number of ſome odd men in his collection: and a gentleman who lives with him has taken it moſt expreſſively at full length.—I purpoſe to obtain an etching of it, and to ſend it you—— Your prayer for me of *roſy health*, is heard—If I ſtay her for three or four months, I ſhall return more than reinſtated. My love to Mrs Garrick.

am, my dear Garrick,

Your moſt humble Servant,

L. STERNE.

LETTE XXIII.

TO THE SAME.

Paris, April 10. 1762.

MY DEAR GARRICK,

I SNATCH the occaſion of Mr Wilcox (the late Biſhop of Rocheſter's ſon) leaving this place for England, to write to you, and I incloſe it to Hall, who will put it into your hand, poſſibly behind the ſcenes. I hear no news of you, or your *empire* I would have ſaid *kingdom*——but here evry thing is hyperbolized——and if a woman is but

ſimply pleaſed—'tis *Je ſuis charme*—and if ſhe is charmed, 'tis nothing leſs than that ſhe is *ravi*-ſh'd—and when ravi-ſh'd, (which may happen) there is nothing left to her but to fly to the other world for a metaphor, and ſwear qu'elle etoit tout *extaſiee*—which mode of ſpeaking is, by the by, here creeping into uſe, and there is ſcarce a woman who underſtands the *bon ton*, but is ſeven times in a day in downright ecſtaſy—that is, the devil's in her—by a ſmall miſtake of one word for the other———Now, where am I got?

I HAVE been theſe two days reading a tragedy, given me by a lady of talents to read, and conjecture if it would do for you—'Tis from the plan of Diderot, and poſſibly half a tranſlation of it—The Natural Son, or the Triumph of Virtue, in five acts—It has too much ſentiment in it (at leaſt for me,) the ſpeeches too long, and ſavour too much of *preaching*—this may be a ſecond reaſon it is not to my taſte—'Tis all love, love, love, throughout, without much ſeparation in the character; ſo I fear it would not do for your ſtage, and perhaps for the very reaſons which recommend it to a French one.—After a vile ſuſpenſion of three weeks, we are beginning with our comedies and operas again—yours I hear never flouriſhed more—here the comic actors were never ſo low—the tragedians hold up their heads—in all ſenſes. I have known *one little man* ſupport this theatrical world, like a David Atlas, upon his ſhoulders, but Preuilie can't do half as much here, though

though Mademoiſelle Clairon ſtands by him, and ſets her back to his—She is very great however, and highly improved ſince you ſaw her—ſhe alſo ſupports her dignity at table, and has her public day every Tueſday, when ſhe *gives to eat* (as they ſay here) to all that are hungry and dry.

You are much talked of here, and much expected, as ſoon as the peace will let you——theſe two laſt days you have happened to engroſs the whole converſation at two great houſes where I was at dinner—'Tis the greateſt problem in nature, in this meridian, that one and the ſame man ſhould poſſeſs ſuch tragic and comic powers and in ſuch an equilibrio, as to divide the world for which of the two Nature intended him.

Crebillion has made a convention with me, which, if he is not too lazy, will be no bad *perſiflage*——As ſoon as I get to Toulouſe, he has agreed to write me an expoſtulatory letter upon the indecorums of T. Shandy—which is to be anſwered by recrimination upon the liberties in his own works——theſe are to be printed together—Crebilion againſt Sterne——Sterne againſt Crebilion—the copy to be ſold, and the money equally divided.—This is good Swiſs policy.

I am recovered greatly, and if I could ſpend one whole winter at Toulouſe, I ſhould be fortified, in my inner-man, beyond all danger of relapſing.—A ſad aſthma my daughter has been martyr'd with theſe

three winters, but moſtly this laſt, makes it, I fear, neceſſary ſhe ſhould try the laſt remedy of a warmer and ſofter air; ſo I am going this week to Verſailles to wait upon Count Choiſeul, to ſolicit paſſports for them—If this ſyſtem takes place, they join me here, and after a month's ſtay, we all decamp for the ſouth of France——if not, I ſhall ſee you in June next. Mr Fox, and Mr Maccartney having left Paris, I live altogether in French families.—I laugh till I cry, and, in the ſame tender moments, *cry till I laugh.* Shandy is more than ever, and verily do believe, that by mere Shandeiſm, ſublimated by a laughter-loving people, I fence as much againſt infirmities, as I do by the benefit of air and climate. Adieu, dear Garrick! Preſent ten thouſand of my beſt reſpects and wiſhes to and for my friend Mrs Garrick——Had ſhe been laſt night upon the Tuilleries, ſhe would have annihilated a thouſand French Goddeſſes, *in one ſingle turn.*

I am, moſt truly,

my dearſt friend,

L. STERNE.

LET.

LETTER XXIV.

TO MRS STERNE, YORK.

Paris, May 16. 1762.

MY DEAR,

IT is a thouſand to one that this reaches you before you ſet out—However, I take the chance. ——You will receive one wrote laſt night, the moment you get to Mr E. and to wiſh you joy of your arrival in town—To that letter which you will find in town, I have nothing to add that I can think on—for I have almoſt drain'd my brains dry upon the ſubject.—For GOD's ſake riſe early and gallop away in the cool———and always ſee that you have not forgot your baggage in changing poſt-chaiſes ——You will find good tea upon the road from York to Dover—only bring a little to carry you from Calais to Paris———Give the Cuſtom-houſe officers what I told you———at Calais give more, if you have much Scotch ſnuff—but as tobacco is good here, you had beſt bring a Scotch mill, and make it yourſelf, that is, order your valet to manufacture it—'twill keep him out of miſchief.———I would adviſe you to take three days in coming up, for fear of heating yourſelves—See that they do not give you a bad vehicle, when a better is in the yard; but you will look ſharp——Drink ſmall Rheniſh

to

to keep you cool (that is, if you like it.) Live well, and deny yourſelves nothing your hearts wiſh. So GOD in heaven proſper and go along with you—Kiſs my Lydia, and believe me both affectionately,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXV.

TO THE SAME.

Paris, May 31. 1762.

MY DEAR,

THERE have no mails arrived here till this morning, for three poſts, ſo I expected with great impatience a letter from you and Lydia—and lo! it is arrived. You are as buſy as Throp's wife, and by the time you receive this, you will be buſier ſtill——I have exhauſted all my ideas about your journey—and what is needful for you to do before and during it——ſo I write only to tell you I am well—Mr Colebrooks, the miniſter of Swiſſerland's ſecretary I got this morning to write a letter for you to the governor of the Cuſtom-houſe Office, at Calais——it ſhall be ſent you next poſt. ——You muſt be cautious about Scotch ſnuff——take half a pound in your bocket, and make Lyd do

the

the ſame. 'Tis well I bought you a chaiſe—there is no getting one in Paris now, but at an enormous price—for they are all ſent to the army, and ſuch a one as yours we have not been able to match for forty guineas, for a friend of mine who is going from hence to Italy——the weather was never known to ſet in ſo hot as it has done the latter end of this month, ſo he and his party are to get into his chaiſes by four in the morning, and travel till nine——and not ſtir out again till ſix:——but I hope this ſevere heat will abate by the time you come here—however, I beg of you once more to take ſpecial care of heating your blood in travelling, and come *tout doucement*, when you find the heat too much——I ſhall look impatiently for intelligence from you, and hope to hear all goes well; that you conquer all difficulties, that your have received your paſſport, my picture, &c. Write, and tell me ſomething of every thing. I long to ſee you both, you may be aſſured, my dear wife and child, after ſo long a ſeparation——and write me a line directly, that I may have all the notice you can give me, that I may have apartments ready and fit for you when you arrive.—— For my own part I ſhall continue writing to you a fortnight longer——Preſent my reſpects to all friends——you have bid Mr C. get my viſitations at P. done for me, &c. &c. If any offers are made about the incloſure at Raſcal, they muſt be incloſed to me——nothing that is fairly propoſed ſhall ſtand ſtill on my ſcore. Do all for the beſt, as He who guides

guides all things will I hope do for us—ſo heaven preſerve you both—believe me

Your affectionate

L. STERNE.

LOVE to my Lydia——I have brought her a gold watch to preſent to her when ſhe comes.

LETTER XXVI.

TO THE SAME.

Paris, June 7. 1762.

MY DRAR,

I KEEP my promiſe, and write to you again—I am ſorry the bureau muſt be open'd for the deeds——but you will ſee it done——I imagine you are convinced of the neceſſity of bringing three hundred pounds in your pocket——if you conſider, Lydia muſt have two ſlight negligees——you will want a new gown or two——as for painted linens, buy them in town, they will be more admired becauſe Engliſh than French. Mrs H. writes me word that I am miſtaken about buying ſilk cheaper at Toulouſe than Paris, that ſhe adviſes you to buy what you want here——where they are very beautiful and cheap, as well as blonds, gauzes, &c.——Theſe I ſay will all coſt you ſixty guineas—and you muſt

muſt have them—for in this country nothing muſt be ſpared for the back———and if you dine on an onion, and lie in a garret ſeven ſtories high, you muſt not betray it in your cloaths, according to which you are well or ill looked on. When we are got to Toulouſe, we muſt begin to turn the penny, and we may (if you do not game much) live very cheap —I think that expreſſion will divert you—and now God knows I have not a wiſh but for your health, comfort, and ſafe arrival here—write to me every other poſt, that I may know how you go on—you will be in raptures with your chariot.—Mr R. a gentleman of fortune, who is going to Italy, and has ſeen it, has offered me thirty guineas for my bargain. —You will wonder all the way how I am to find room in it for a third———to eaſe you of this wonder, 'tis by what the coach-makers here call a cave, which is a ſecond bottom added to that you ſet your feet upon, which lets the perſon (who ſits over againſt you) down with his knees to your ancles, and by which you have all more room—and what is more, leſs heat—becauſe his head does not intercept the fore-glaſs—little or nothing—Lyd and I will enjoy this by turns; ſometimes I ſhall take a bidet—(a little poſt horſe) and ſcamper before———at other times I ſhall ſit in freſco upon the arm-chair without doors, and one way or other will do very well.— I am under infinite obligations to Mr Thornhill, for accommodating me thus, and ſo genteelly, for 'tis

like

like making a preſent of it.—Mr T. will ſend you an order to receive it at Calais——and now, my dear girls, have I forgot any thing?

Adieu! adieu!

Yours, moſt affectionately,

L. STERNE.

A WEEK or ten days will enable you to ſee every thing—and ſo long you muſt ſtay to reſt your bones

LETTER XXVII.

TO THE SAME.

Paris, June 14. 1762.

MY DEAREST,

HAVING an opportunity of writing by a friend who is ſetting out this morning for London, I write again in caſe the two laſt letters I have wrote this week to you ſhould be detained by contrary winds at Calais—I have wrote to Mr E——, by the ſame hand, to thank him for his kindneſs to you in the handſomeſt manner I could—and have told him, his good heart and his wife's, have made them overlook the trouble of having you at his houſe, but that if he takes you apartments near him, they will have occaſion ſtill enough left to ſhow their friendſhip to us—I have begged him to aſſiſt you, and ſtand by you, as if he was in my place,

with

with regard to the ſale of the Shandys—and then the copy-right——Mark to keep theſe things diſtinct in your head—but Becket I have ever found to be a man of probity, and I dare ſay you will have very little trouble in finiſhing matters with him—and I would rather wiſh you to treat with him than with another man—but whoever buys the fifth and ſix volumes of Shandys, muſt have the nayſay of the ſeventh and eighth *.——I wiſh, when you come here, in caſe the weather is too hot to travel, you could think it pleaſant to go to the Spa for four or ſix weeks, where we ſhould live for half the money we ſhould ſpend in Paris—after that, we ſhould take the ſweeteſt ſeaſon of the vintage to go to the ſouth of France—but we will put our heads together, and you ſhall juſt do as you pleaſe in this, and in every thing which depends on me—for I am a being perfectly contented when others are pleaſed—to bear and forbear will ever be my maxim—only I fear the heats through a journey of five hundred miles for you, and my Lydia, more than for myſelf—Do not forget the watch chains——bring a couple for a gentleman's watch likewiſe; we ſhall lie under great obligations of the Abbe M., and muſt make him ſuch a ſmall acknowledgement; according to my way of flouriſhing, 'twill be a preſent worth a kingdom to him—They have bad pins, and vile needles here——bring for yourſelf, and ſome for preſents——as alſo a ſtrong bottle-ſkrew, for whatever

Scrub

* Alluding to the firſt edition.

Scrub we may hire as hustler, coachman, &c. to uncork us our Frontiniac—You will find a letter for you at the Lyon D'Argent—Send for your chaise into the court yard, and see all is tight—Buy a chain, at Calais, strong enough not to be cut off, and let your portmanteau be tied on the forepart of your chaise for fear of a dog's trick—so God bless you both, and remember me to my Lydia.

I am yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Paris, June 17. 1762.

MY DEAREST,

PROBABLY you will receive another letter with this, by the same post—if so, read this the last—It will be the last you can possibly receive at York, for I hope it will catch you just as you are going upon the wing—If that shall happen, I suppose in course you have executed the contents of it, in all things which relate to pecuniary matters; and when these are settled to your mind, you will have got through your last difficulty—every thing else will be a step of pleasure: and by the time you have got half a dozen stages you will set up your pipes, and sing Te Deum together, as you whisk

whisk it along.—Desire Mr C—— to send me a proper letter of attorney by you; he will receive it back by return of post. You have done every thing well with regard to our Sutton and Stillington affairs, and left things in the best channel.—If I was not sure you must have long since got my picture, garnets, &c. I would write and scold Mr T—— abominably—he put them in Becket's hands, to be forwarded by the stage-coach to you, as soon as he got to town.—I long to hear from you, and that all my letters and things are come safe to you, and then you will say that I have not been a bad lad—for you will find I have been writing continually as I wish you to do.——Bring your silver coffee-pot; 'twill serve both to give water, lemonade, and or-ead—to say nothing of coffee and chocolate, which, by the by, is both cheap and good at Toulouse, like ther things—I had like to have forgot a most ne-essary thing; there are no copper tea-kettles to be ad in France, and we shall find such a thing the oft comfortable utensil in the house—Buy a good rong one, which will hold two quarts—a dish of a will be of comfort to us in our journey forth.—I ve a bronze tea-pot, which we will carry also—I china cannot be brought over from England we ust make up a villainous pary-coloured tea-equi-ge, to regale ourselves, and our English friends, hilst we are at Toulouse.—I hope you have got ur bill from Becket.—There is a good-natured od of a trader I have just heard of, at Mr Foley's, who

who they think will be coming off from England to France, with horſes, the latter end of June. He happened to come over with a lady, who is ſiſter to Mr Foley's partner, and I have got her to write a letter to him in London, this poſt, to beg he will ſeek you out at Mr E——'s, and in caſe a cartel-ſhip does not go off before he goes, to take you under his care. He was infinitely friendly in the ſame office, laſt year, to the lady who now writes to him, and nurſed her on ſhipboard, and defended her by land with great good-will.—Do not ſay I forget you, or whatever can be conducive to your eaſe of mind, in this journey—I wiſh I was with you, to do theſe offices myſelf, and to ſtrew roſes on your way—but I ſhall have time and occaſion to ſhew you I am not wanting—Now, my dears, once more pluck up your ſpirits—truſt in GOD—in me—and in your ſelves——With this, was you put to it, you would encounter all theſe difficulties ten times told.—Write inſtantly, and tell me you triumph over all fears: tell me Lydia is better, and a helpmate to you——You ſay ſhe grows like me—let her ſhew me ſhe does ſo in her contempt of ſmall dangers, and fighting againſt the apprehenſions of them, which is better ſtill. As I will not have F.'s ſhare of the books, you will inform him ſo——Give my love to Mr Fothergill, and to thoſe true friends which Envy has ſpared me—and for the reſt *laiſſez paſſer*—You will find I ſpeak French tolerably—but I only wiſh to be underſtood—You will ſoon ſpeak better a month

a month's play with a French Demoiſelle will make Lyd chatter like a magpye. Mrs —— underſtood not a word of it when ſhe got here, and writes me word ſhe begins to prate apace—you will do the ſame in a fortnight—Dear Beſs, I have a thouſand wiſhes, but have a hope for every one of them—You ſhall chant the ſame *jubilate*, my dears; ſo GOD bleſs you. My duty to Lydia, which implies my love too. Adieu—believe me

Your affectionate

L. STERNE.

MEMORANDUM: Bring watch-chains, tea-kettle, knives, cookery-book, &c.

YOU will ſmile at this laſt article—ſo adieu—At Dover, the Croſs Keys; at Calais, the Lyon D'Argent—the maſter, a Turk in grain.

LETTER XXIX.

TO LADY D.

Paris, July 9. 1762.

WILL not ſend your Ladyſhip the trifles you bid me purchaſe without a line. I am very well pleaſed with Paris—Indeed I meet with ſo many civilities amongſt the people here, that I muſt

ſing

ſing their praiſes——The French have a great deal of urbanity in their compoſition, and to ſtay a little time amongſt them will be agreeable.—I ſplutter French ſo as to be underſtood——but I have had a droll adventure here, in which my Latin was of ſome ſervice to me—I had hired a chaiſe and a horſe to go about ſeven miles into the country, but, *Shandean-like*, did not take notice that the horſe was almoſt dead when I took him——Before I got half way, the poor animal dropped down dead—ſo I was forced to appear before the Police, and began to tell my ſtory in French, which was, that the poor beaſt had to do with a worſe beaſt than himſelf, namely *his maſter*, who had driven him all the day before (Jehu-like,) and that he had neither had corn or hay, therefore I was not to pay for the horſe—But I might as well have whiſtled, as have ſpoke French, and I believe my Latin was equal to my uncle Toby's Lilabulero—being not underſtood becauſe of its purity; but by dint of words I forced my judge to do me juſtice—no common thing by the way in France.——My wife and daughter are arrived—the latter does nothing but look out of the window, and complain of the torment of being frizzled.—I wiſh ſhe may ever remain a child of nature——I hate children of art.

I HOPE this will find your Ladyſhip well—and that you will be kind enough to direct to me at

Toulouſe,

Toulouſe, which place I ſhall ſet out for very ſoon. I am, with truth and ſincerity,

Your Ladyſhip's Moſt faithful

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXX.

TO MR E.

Paris, July 12. 1762.

DEAR SIR,

MY wife and daughter atrived here ſafe and ſound on Thurſday, and are in high raptures with the ſpeed and pleaſantneſs of their journey, and particularly of all they ſee and meet with here. But in their journey from York to Paris nothing has given them a more ſenſible and laſting pleaſure than the marks of kindneſs they received from you and Mrs E.—The friendſhip, good-will and politeneſs, of my two friends I never doubted to me or mine, and I return you both all a grateful man is capable of, which is merely my thanks. I have taken, however, the liberty of ſending an Indian taffety, which Mrs E. muſt do me the honour to wear for my wife's ſake, who would have got it made up, but that Mr Stanhope, the Conſul of Algiers, who ſets off tomorrow morning for London, has been ſo kind (I mean his lady) as to take charge of it; and we had but juſt time to procure it: and, had we miſſed that

opportunity, as we ſhould have been obliged to have left it behind us at Paris, we knew not when or how to get it to our friend.—I wiſh it had been better worth a paragraph. If there is any thing we can buy or procure for you here (intelligence included) you have a right to command me——for I am yours, with my wife and girl's kind love to you and Mrs E.

LAU. STERNE.

LETTER XXXI.

TO J— H— S—, ESQ.

Toulouſe, Auguſt 12. 1762.

MY DEAR H.

BY the time you have got to the end of this long letter, you will perceive that I have not been able to anſwer your laſt till now—I have had the intention of doing it almoſt as often as my prayers in my head——'tis thus we uſe our beſt friends—What an infamous ſtory is that you have told me!——After ſome little remarks on it, the reſt of my letter will go on, like ſilk. ****——is a good natured old eaſy fool, and has been deceived by the moſt artful of her ſex, and ſhe muſt have abundance of impudence and charlatanery, to have carried on ſuch a farce. I pity the old man for being taken in for ſo much money—a man of ſenſe I ſhould have laughed at—My wife ſaw her when in town, and ſhe

ſhe had not the appearance of poverty; but when ſhe wants to melt ****'s heart, ſhe puts her gold watch and diamond rings in her drawer.——But he might have been aware of her. I could not have been miſtaken in her character—and 'tis odd ſhe ſhould talk of her wealth to one, and tell another the reverſe——ſo good night to her—About a week or ten days before my wife arrived at Paris, I had the ſame accident I had at Cambridge, of breaking a veſſel in my lungs. It happened in the night, and I bled the bed full; and finding in the morning I was likely to bleed to death, I ſent immediately for a ſurgeon to bleed me at both arms—this ſaved me, and, with lying ſpeechleſs three days, I recovered upon my back in bed; the breach healed, and, in a week after, I got out—This, with my weakneſs and hurrying about, made me think it high time to haſte to Toulouſe.—We have had four months of ſuch heats, that the oldeſt Frenchman never remembers the like——'twas as hot as *Nebuchadnezzar's oven*, and never has relaxed one hour—in the height of this, 'twas our deſtiny (or rather deſtruction) to ſet out by way of Lyons, Montpellier, &c. to ſhorten, I trow, our ſufferings—Good God!—but 'tis over—and here I am in my own houſe, quite ſettled by M——'s aid, and good-natured offices, for which I owe him more than I can expreſs, or know how to pay at preſent——'Tis in the prettieſt ſituation in Toulouſe, with near two acres of garden——the

houſe too good by half for us—well furniſhed, for which I pay thirty pounds a year.—I have got a good cook—my wife a decent *femme de chambre*, and a good looking *laquais*—The Abbe has planned our expences, and ſet us in ſuch a train, we cannot eaſily go wrong——though, by the by, the d—l is ſeldom found ſleeping under a hedge. Mr Trotter dined with me the day before I left Paris—I took care to ſee all executed according to your directions—but Trotter, I dare ſay, by this, has wrote to you—I made him happy beyond expreſſion with your Crazy Tales, and more ſo with its frontiſpiece. —I am in ſpirits, writing a crazy chapter with my face turned towards the turret—'Tis now I wiſh all warmer climates, countries, and every thing elſe, at —, that ſeparates me from our paternal ſeat—*ce, ſera la ou repoſera ma cendre—et ce ſera la ou mon couſin viendra repondre les pleurs dues a notre amitie*—I am taking aſſes milk three times a day, and cows milk as often——I long to ſee thy face again once more—Greet the Colonel kindly in my name, and thank him cordially from me for his many civilities to Madame and Mademoiſelle Shandy at York, who ſend all due acknowledgments. The humour is over for France, and Frenchmen—but that is not enough for your affectionate couſin,

L. S.

A YEAR

(A YEAR will tire us all out, I trow) but thank heaven the poſt brings me a letter from my Anthony——I ſelicitate you upon what Meſſrs the Reviewers allow you—they have too much judgment themſelves not to allow you what you are actually poſſeſſed of, "talents, wit, and humour."——Well, write on, my dear couſin, and be guided by thy own fancy.——Oh! how I envy you all at Crazy Caſtle!——I could like to ſpend a month with you—and ſhould return back again for the vintage.—I honour the man that has given the world an idea of our parental ſeat——'tis well done—I look at it ten times a day with a *quando te aſpiciam?*——Now farewell——remember me to my beloved Colonel——greet Panty moſt lovingly on my behalf: and if Mrs C— and Miſs C—, &c. are at G—, great them likewiſe with a holy kiſs——So God bleſs you.

LETTER XXXII.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PASIS.

Toulouſe, Auguſt 14. 1762.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

AFTER many turnings (*alias* diſgreſſions) to ſay nothing of downright overthrows, ſtops,

and delays, we have arrived in three weeks at Toulouſe, and are now ſettled in our houſes with ſervants, &c. about us, and look as compoſed as if we had been here ſeven years.—In our journey we ſuffered ſo much from the heats, it gives me pain to remember it—I never ſaw a cloud from Paris to Niſmes half as broad as a twenty-four ſols piece,—Good God! we were toaſted, roaſted, grill'd, ſtew'd and carbonaded, on one ſide or other all the way—and being all done enough (*aſſez cuits*) in the day, we were eat up at night by bugs, and other unſwept out vermin, the legal inhabitants (if length of poſſeſſion gives right) of every inn we lay at—Can you conceive a worſe accident, than that in ſuch a journey, in the hotteſt day and hour of it, four miles from either tree or ſhrub which could caſt a ſhade of the ſize of one of Eve's fig leaves—that we ſhould break a hind wheel into ten thouſand pieces, and be obliged in conſequence to ſit five hours on a gravelly road, without one drop of water, or poſſibility of getting any?—To mend the matter, my two poſtillions were two dough-hearted fools, and fell a crying—Nothing was to be done! By heaven, quoth I, pulling off my coat and waiſtcoat, ſomething ſhall be done, for I'll thraſh you both within an inch of your lives—and then make you take each of you a horſe——and ride like two devils to the next poſt for a cart to carry my baggage, and a wheel to carry ourſelves——Our luggage weighed ten quintals——'twas

the

the fair of Baucaire—we were aſk'd by every ſoul who paſs'd by us, if we were going to the fair of Bancaire——No wonder, quoth I, we have goods enough! *vous avez raiſon, mes amis.*

WELL! here we are after all, my dear friend—and moſt deliciouſly placed at the extremity of the town, in an excellent houſe well furniſhed, and elegant beyond any thing I look'd for—'Tis built in form of a hotel, with a pretty court towards the town—and behind, the beſt garden in Toulouſe, laid out in ſerpentine walks, and ſo large, that the company in our quarter uſually come to walk there in the evenings, for which they have my conſent—"the "more the merrier."—The houſe conſiſts of a good *ſalle a manger* above ſtairs, joining to the very great *ſalle a compagnie* as large as the Baron D'Holbach's; three handſome bed-chambers with dreſſing rooms to them—below ſtairs two very good rooms for myſelf, one to ſtudy in, the other to ſee company.—I have moreover cellars round the court, and all other offices—Of the ſame landlord I have bargained to have the uſe of a country houſe which he has two miles out of town, ſo that myſelf and all my family have nothing more to do than to take our hats and remove from the one to the other——My landlord is moreover to keep the gardens in order—and what do you think I am to pay for all this? neither more or leſs than thirty pounds a year—all things are cheap in proportion—ſo we ſhall live for very very little——I dined yeſterday with Mr H—; he is moſt

pleaſantly

pleaſantly ſituated and they are all well.——As for the books you have received for D——, the bookſeller was a fool not to ſend the bill along with them——I will write to him about it.—I wiſh you was with me for two months; it would cure you of all evils ghoſtly and bodily——but this, like many other wiſhes both for you and myſelf, muſt have its completion elſewhere——Adieu, my kind friend, and believe that I love you as much from inclination as reaſon, for

I am moſt truly yours,

L. STERNE.

My wife and girl join in compliments to you —My beſt reſpects to my worthy Baron d'Holbach and all that ſociety—Remember me to my friend Mr Panchaud.

LETTER XXXIII.

TO J— H— S—, ESQ.

Toulouſe, Oct. 19. 1762.

MY DEAR H,

I RECEIVED your letter yeſterday—ſo it has been travelling from Crazy Caſtle to Toulouſe full eighteen days—If I had nothing to ſtop me, I would engage to ſet out this morning, and knock at

Crazy

Crazy Caſtle gates in three days leſs time—by which time I ſhould find you and the Colonel, Panty, &c. all alone—the ſeaſon I moſt wiſh and like to be with you—I rejoice from my heart, down to my reins, that you have ſnatch'd ſo many happy and ſunſhiny days out of the hand of the blue devils.—If we live to meet and join our forces as heretofore, we will give theſe gentry a drubbing—and turn them for ever out of their uſurped citadel—Some legions of them have been put to flight already by your operations this laſt campaign—and I hope to have a hand in diſperſing the remainder the firſt time my dear couſin ſets up his banners again under the ſquare tower—But what art thou meditating with axes and hammers?—"*I know the pride and* "*the naughtineſs of thy heart,*" and thou loveſt the ſweet viſions of architraves, friezes, and pediments with their tympanums, and thou haſt found out a pretence, *a raiſon de cinq cent livres ſterling* to be laid out in four years, &c. &c. (ſo as not to be felt, which is always added by the d—l as a bait) to juſtify thyſelf unto thyſelf—It may be very wiſe to do this—but 'tis wiſer to keep one's money in one's pocket, whilſt there are wars without and rumours of wars within. St —— adviſes his diſciples to ſell both coat and waiſtcoat—and go rather without ſhirt or ſword, than leave no money in their ſcrip to go to Jeruſalem with—Now thoſe *quatre ans conſecutifs*, my dear Anthony, are the moſt precious morſels of thy *life to come* (in this world)

world) and thou wilt do well to enjoy that morſel without cares, calculations, and curſes, and damns, and debts—for as ſure as ſtone is ſtone, and mortar is mortar, &c. 'twill be one of the many works of thy repentance—But, after all, if the Fates have decreed it, as you and I have ſome time ſuppoſed it on account of your generoſity, "*that you are "never to be a monied man,*" the decree will be fulfilled whether you adorn your caſtle, and line it with cedar, and paint it within ſide and without ſide with vermilion, or not—*et cela etant* (having a bottle of Frontiniac and glaſs at my right hand) I drink, dear Anthony, to thy health and happineſs, and to the final accompliſhments of all thy lunary and ſublunary projects.—For ſix weeks together, after I wrote my laſt letter to you, my proſpects were many ſtories higher, for I was all that time, as I thought, journeying on to the other world—I fell ill of an epidemic vile fever, which killed hundreds about me—The phyſicians here are the arranteſt charlatans in Europe, or the moſt ignorant of all pretending fools——I withdrew what was left of me out of their hands, and recommended my affairs entirely to Dame Nature—— She (dear goddeſs) has ſaved me in fifty different pinching bouts, and I begin to have a kind of enthuſiaſm now in her favour, and in my own, that one or two more eſcapes will make me believe I ſhall leave you all at laſt by tranſlation, and not by fair death. I am now ſtout and fooliſh again as a happy man can wiſh to be——and am

buſy

busy playing the fool with my uncle Toby, whom I have got souſed over head and ears in love.——I have many hints and projects for other works; all will go on I truſt as I wiſh in this matter.—When I have reaped the benefit of this winter at Toulouſe —I cannot ſee I have any thing more to do with it; therefore, after having gone with my wife and girl to Bagnieres, I ſhall return from whence I came—Now my wife wants to ſtay another year, to ſave money; and this oppoſition of wiſhes, though it will not be as ſour as lemon, yet 'twill not be as ſweet as ſugar-candy.—I wiſh I— would lead Sir Charles to Toulouſe; 'tis as good as any town in the ſouth of France——for my own part, 'tis not to my taſte—but I believe, the ground-work of my *ennui* is owing more to the eternal platitude of the French character——little variety, no originality in it at all—than to any other cauſe, for they are very civil—but civility itſelf, in that uniform, wearies and bodders one to death—If I do not mind, I ſhall grow moſt ſtupid and ſententious——Miſs Shandy is hard at it with muſic, dancing, and French ſpeaking, in the laſt of which ſhe does *a merveille* and ſpeaks it with an excellent accent, conſidering ſhe practiſes within ſight of the Pyrenean Mountains.—If the nows will ſuffer me, I propoſe to ſpend two or three months at Barege, or Bagnieres; but my dear wife s againſt all ſchemes of additional expences——hich wicked propenſity (though not of deſpotic ower) yet I cannot ſuffer—though by the by laudable

dable enough—But she may talk—I will do my own way, and she will acquiesce, without a word of debate on the subject. Who can say so much in praise of his wife? Few I trow. M—— it out of town vintaging—So write to me *Monsieur Sterne, gentilhomme Anglois*—'twill find me—We are as much out of the road of all intelligence here, as at the Cape of Good Hope——so write a long nonsensical letter like this, now and then, to me——in which say nothing but what may be shewn, (though I love every paragraph and spirited stroke of your pen, others might not) for you must know, a letter no sooner arrives from England but curiosity is upon her knees to know the contents——Adieu, dear H.—Believe me

Your affectionate

——L. STERNE.

WE have had bitter cold weather here these fourteen days—at which has obliged us to sit with whole pagells of wood lighted up to our noses—'tis a dear article—but every thing else being extreme cheap, Madame keeps an excellent good house, with *soupe, bouilli roti*——&c. &c. for two hundred and fifty pounds a year.

LETTER XXXIV.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PARIS.

Toulouſe, November 9. 1762.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

I HAVE had this week your letter on my table, and hope you will forgive my not anſwering it ſooner——and even to-day I can but write you ten lines, being engaged at Mrs M—'s. I would not omit one poſt more acknowledging the favour——In a few poſts, I will write you a long one gratis, that is for love.—Thank you for having done what I deſired you—and for the future direct to me under cover at Monſieur Brouſſe's—I receive all letters through him more punctual and ſooner than when left at the poſt houſe——

H———'s family greet you with mine——we are much together, and never forget you—Forget me not to the Baron——and all the circle—nor to your domeſtic circle——

I AM got pretty well, and ſport much with my uncle Toby in the volume I am now fabricating for the laughing part of the world—for the melancholy part of it, I have nothing but my prayers—ſo God help them——I ſhall hear from you in a poſt or two at leaſt after you receive this——In the mean time,

dear Foley, adieu, and believe no man wiſhes or eſteems you more than your

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXXV.

TO THE SAME.

Touloufe, Wedneſday, Dec. 3. 1762.

DEAR FOLEY,

I HAVE for this laſt fortnight every poſt-day gone to Meſſrs B—— and ſons, in expectation of the pleaſure of a letter from you, with the remittance I deſired you to ſend me here.—— When a man has no more than half a dozen guineas in his pocket—and a thouſand miles from home—and in a country where he can as ſoon raiſe the d—l as a ſix livre piece to go to market with, in caſe he has changed his laſt guinea—you will not envy my ſituation.—God bleſs you——remit me the balance due upon the receipt of this.——We are all at H——'s practiſing a play we are to act here this Chriſtmas Holidays—all the Dramatis Perſonæ are of the Engliſh, of which we have a happy ſociety, living together like brothers and ſiſters——Your banker here has juſt ſent me word the tea Mr H. wrote for is to be delivered into my hands—'tis all one into whoſe hands the treaſure falls—we ſhall pay Brouſſe for it the day we get it——We join in our moſt

most friendly respects; and believe me, dear Foley, truly

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouse, Dec. 17, 1762.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

THE post after I wrote last, I received yours with the inclosed draught upon the receiver, for which I return you all thanks——I have receiv'ed this day likewise the box and tea all safe and sound——so we shall all of us be in our cups this Christmas, and drink without fear or stint.——We begin to live extremely happy, and are all together every night——fiddling, laughing, and singing, and cracking jokes.——You will scarce believe the news I tell you——here are a company of English strollers arrived here, who are to act comedies all the Christmas, and are now busy making dresses, and preparing some of our best comedies.——Your wonder will cease, when I inform you these strollers are your friends, with the rest of our society, to whom I proposed this scheme *soulagement*——and I assure you we do well.——The next week, with a grand Cavalcata, we play the Busy Body——and the Journey

to London the week after; but I have ſome thoughts of adapting it to our ſituation—and making it the Journey to Toulouſe, which, with the change of half a dozen ſcenes, may be eaſily done.—Thus, my dear F. for want of ſomething better, we have recourſe to ourſelves, and ſtrike out the beſt amuſements we can from ſuch materials.——My kind love and friendſhip to all my true friends—My ſervice to the reſt. H——'s family have juſt left me, having been this laſt week with us—they will be with me all the holidays—In ſummer we ſhall viſit them, and ſo balance hoſpitalities.

Adieu,

Yours moſt truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouſe, March 29. 1763.

DEAR FOLEY,

—THOUGH that's a miſtake! I mean the date of the place, for I write at Mr. H——'s in the country, and have been there with my people all the week—"How does Triſtram do?" you ſay in yours to him—Faith but ſo ſo—the worſt of human maladies is poverty—though that is a ſecond lie—for poverty of ſpirit is worſe than poverty of purſe by

ten thousand per cent.—I inclose you a remedy for the one, a draught of a hundred and thirty pounds, for which I innit upon a rescription by the very return——or I will send you and all your commissaries to the d——l——I do not hear they have tasted of one lenny banquet all this Lent—You will make an excellent *grill*.——they can make nothing of him but *papillon*—I mean my other two friends no ill——I shall send them a reprieve as they acted out of necessity—not choice—My kind respects to Baron D'Holbach, and all his household—Say all that's kind for me to my other friends——you know how much, dear Foley, I am yours,

L. STERNE.

I HAVE not five Louis to vapour with in this land of coxcombs—My wife's compliments.

LETTER XXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouse, April 18. 1763.

DEAR FOLEY,

I THANK you for your punctuality in sending the rescription, and for your box by the courier, which came safe by last post——I was not surprised much with your account of Lord ***** being obliged to give way——and for the rest all

follows in course,——I suppose you will endeavour to fish and catch something for yourself in these troubled waters—at least I wish you all a reasonable man can wish for himself—which is wishing enough for you—all the rest is in the brain—Mr Woodhouse (whom you know) is also here—he is a most amiable worthy man, and I have the pleasure of having him much with me—in a short time he proceeds to Italy.——The first week in June, I decamp like a patriarch with my whole household, to pitch our tents for three months at the foot of the Pyrenean Hills, at Bagnieres, where I expect much health and much amusement from the concourse of adventurers from all corners of the earth.—Mrs M——— sets out, at the same time, for another part of the Pyrenean Hills, at Courtray—from whence to Italy—This is the general plan of operation here———except that I have some thoughts of spending the winter at Florence and crossing over with my family to Leghorn by water—and in April of returning by way of Paris home—but this is a sketch only, for in all things I am governed by circumstances—so that what is fit to be done on Monday, may be very unwise on Saturday—On all days of the week, believe me yours,

With unfeigned truth,

L. STERNE.

P. S. All compliments to my Parisian friends.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouſe, April 29. 1763.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

LAST poſt my agent wrote me word he would ſend up from York a bill for fourſcore guineas, with orders to be paid into Mr Selwin's hands for me. This he ſaid he would expedite immediately, ſo 'tis poſſible you may have had advice of it—and 'tis poſſible alſo the money may not be paid this fortnight; therefore, as I ſet out for Bagnieres in that time, be ſo good as to give me credit for the money for a few poſts or ſo, and ſend me either a reſcription for the money, or a draught for it——at the receipt of which, we ſhall decamp for ten or twelve weeks—You will receive twenty pounds more on my account, which ſend alſo——ſo much for that—As for pleaſure—you have it all amongſt you at Paris—we have nothing here which deſerves the name—I ſhall ſcarce be tempted to ſojourn another winter in Toulouſe—for I cannot ſay it ſuits my health as I hoped—'tis too moiſt—and I cannot keep clear of agues here——ſo that if I ſtay the next winter on this ſide of the water—'twill be either at Nice or Florence—and I ſhall return to England in April——Wherever I am, believe me, dear Foley, that I am,

Yours faithfully,

L. STERNE.

MADAME and Mademoiſelle preſent their beſt compliments——Remember me to all I regard, particularly Meſſrs Panchaud, and the reſt of your *houſehold*.

LETTER XL.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouſe, May 21. 1763.

I TOOK the liberty, three weeks ago, to deſire you would be ſo kind as to ſend me fourſcore pounds, having received a letter the ſame poſt from my agent, that he would order the money to be paid to your correſpondent in London in a fortnight—It is ſome diſappointment to me that you have taken no notice of my letter, eſpecially as I told you we waited for the money before we ſet out for Bagnieres——and ſo little diſtruſt had I that ſuch a civility would be refuſed me, that we have actually had all our things packed up theſe eight days, in hourly expectation of receiving a letter.—Perhaps my good friend has waited till he heard the money was paid in London——but you might have truſted to my honour——that all the caſh in your iron box (and all the bankers in Europe put together) could not have tempted me to ſay the thing *that is not*——I hope before this you will have received an account of the money being paid in London——but it would have been taken kindly, if you had

had wrote me word you would transmit me the money when you had received it, but no sooner; for Mr R—— of Montpellier, though I know him not, yet knows enough of me to have given me credit for a fortnight for ten times the sum.

I am, dear F—, your friend

and hearty wellwisher,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XI.

I saw the family of the H—— yesterday, and asked them if you was in the land of the living—— They said yea—for they had just received a letter from you.—After all, I heartily forgive you—— for you have done me a signal service in mortifying me, and it is this, I am determined to grow rich upon it——

Adieu, and God send you health and happiness——All compliments to ——. Before April I am obliged to revisit your metropolis in my way to England.

LETTER XLI.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouse, June 9. 1763.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

I THIS moment received yours——consequently the moment I got it, I sat down to answer it—so much for a logical inference.

Now believe me I had never wrote you so testy a letter, had I not both loved and esteemed you—it was merely in vindication of the rights of friendship that I wrote in a way as if I was hurt——for neglect me in your heart, I knew you could not, without cause; which my heart told me I never had——or will ever give you.——I was the best friend with you that ever I was in my life, before my letter had got a league, and pleaded the true excuse for my friend, "That he was oppressed with a "multitude of business,' Go on, my dear F., and have but that excuse (so much do I regard your interest,) that I would be content to suffer a *real evil* without future murmuring——but in truth, my disappointment was partly chimerical at the bottom, having a letter of credit for two hundred pounds from a person I never saw by me—but which, out of a nicety of temper, I would not make any use of.——I set out in two days for Bagnieres, but direct

to

to me to Brouſſe, who will forward all my letters.—Dear F—, adieu.——Believe me

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XVII.

TO THE SAME.

Toulouſe, June 12. 1763.

DEAR FOLEY,

LUCKILY juſt before I was ſtepping into my chaiſe for Bagnieres, has a ſtrayed fifty pound bill found its way to me; ſo I have ſent it to its lawful owner inclofed.—My noodle of an agent, inſtead of getting Mr Selwin to advife you he had received the money (which would have been enough,) has got a bill for it, and ſent it rambling to the furtheſt part of France after me; and if it had not caught me juſt now, it might have followed me into Spain, for I ſhall croſs the Pyreneans, and ſpend a week in that kingdom, which is enough for a fertile brain to write a volume upon.—When I write the hiſtory of my travels.——Memorandum! I am not to forget how honeſt a man I have for a Banker at Paris.——But my dear friend, when you ſay you dare truſt me for what little occaſions I may have, you have too much faith as honeſty——and more of both than of good policy.——I thank you however ten thouſand-

times——and except ſuch liberty as I have lately taken with you——and that too at a pinch—I ſay beyond that I will not treſpaſs upon your good-nature, or friendlineſs, to ſerve me.——God bleſs you, dear F——.

I am yours whilſt I can STERNE.

LETTER XLIII.

TO THE SAME.

Montpellier, Oct. 5, 1763.

DEAR FOLEY,

I AM aſhamed I have not taken an opportunity of thanking you before now for your friendly act of civility, in ordering Brouſſe, your correſpondent at Toulouſe, in caſe I ſhould have occaſion, to pay me fifteen hundred livres—which, as I knew the offer came from your heart, I made no difficulty of accepting.——In my way through Toulouſe to Marſeilles, where we have been, but neither liking the place nor Aix (particularly the latter, it being a parliament town, of which Toulouſe has given me a ſurfeit,) we have returned here, where we ſhall reſide the winter——My wife and daughter purpoſe to ſtay a year at leaſt behind me, and when winter is over, to return to Toulouſe, or go to Montauban where they will ſtay till they return, or I fetch thm,

—For

—For myself, I shall set out in February for England, where my heart has been fled these six months—but I shall stay a fortnight with my friends at Paris; though I verily believe, if it was not for the pleasure of seeing and chattering with you, I should pass on directly to Brussels, and so on to Rotterdam, for the sake of seeing Holland, and embark from thence to London——But I must stay a little with those I love, and have so many reasons to regard—You cannot place too much of this to your own score.—I have had an offer of going to Italy a fortnight ago—but I must like my subject as well as the terms, neither of which were to my mind.—— Pray what English have you at Paris? where is my young friend Mr F—? We hear of three or four English families coming to us here——If I can be serviceable to any you would serve, you have but to write.—Mr H—— has sent my friend W——'s picture——You have seen the originnal, or I would have sent it you——I believe I shall beg leave to get a copy of my own from yours, when I come *in propria persona*——till when God bless you, my dear friend, and believe me

Most faithfully yours,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER XLIV.

TO THE SAME.

Montpellier, Jan. 5. 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOU see I cannot pass over the fifth of the month without thinking of you, and writing to you.—The last is a perodical habit—the first is from my heart, and I do it oftener than I remember.—However, from both motives together I maintain I have a right to the pleasure of a single line—if only to tell me how your watch goes.—You know how much happier it would make me to know that all things belonging to you went on well.—You are going to have them all to yourself (I hear,) and that Mr S——ds true to his first intention of leaving business.——I hope this will enable you to accomplish yours in a shorter time, that you may get to your long wished for retreat of tranquillity and silence.—When you have got to your fireside, and into your arm-chair (and by the by, have another to spare for a friend,) and are so much a sovereign as to sit in your furred cap, if you like it, though I should not (for a man's ideas are at least the cleaner for being dressed decently,) why then it will be a miracle if I do not glide in like a ghost upon you—and in a very

very unghoſt-like faſhion help you off with a bottle of your beſt wine.

JANUARY 15.—It does not happen every day that a letter begun in the moſt perfect health, ſhould be concluded in the greateſt weakneſs—I wiſh the vulgar high and low do not ſay it was a judgment upon me for taking all this liberty with *ghoſts*—Be it as it may—I took a ride when the firſt of this was wrote, towards Perenas—and returned home in a ſhivering fit, though I ought to have been in a fever, for I had tired my beaſt, and he was as unmoveable as Don Quixote's wooden horſe, and my arms half diſlocated in whipping him—This, quoth I, was Inhuman—No, ſays a peaſant on foot behind me, I'll drive him home—ſo he laid on his poſteriors, but 'twas needleſs—as his face was turned towards Monpellier, he began to trot.—But to return, this fever has confined me ten days in my bed—and I have ſuffered in this ſcuffle with Beelzebub terribly—but unleſs the ſpirit of prophecy deceive me——I ſhall not die, but live—in the mean time, dear Hutt, let us live as merrily, but *as innocently* as we can—It has ever been as good, if not better than a biſhopric to me—and *I deſire no other*—Adieu, my dear friend, and believe me yours,

L. S.

PLEASE to give the incloſed to Mr. T—, and tell him I thank him cordially from my heart for his great *good will*.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

TO THE SAME.

Montpellier, Jan. 20. [1764.]

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HEARING by Lord Rochford (who in paſſing through here in his way to Madrid has given me a call,) that my worthy friend Mr Fox was now at Paris—I have incloſed a letter to him, which you will preſent in courſe, or direct to him. —I ſuppoſe you are full of Engliſh—but in ſhort we are here as if in another world, where, unleſs ſome ſtrayed ſoul arrives, we know nothing of what is going on in yours——Lord G——r I ſuppoſe is gone from Paris, or I had wrote alſo to him. I know you are as buſy as a bee, and have few moments to yourſelf—Nevertheleſs beſtow one of them upon an old friend, and write me a line—and if Mr F—— is too idle, and has ought to ſay to me, pray write a ſecond line for him——We had a letter from Miſs P——y this week, who it ſeems has decamped for ever from Paris——*All this for the beſt*——which is my general reflection upon many things in this world.——Well! I ſhall ſhortly come and ſhake you by the hand in St Sauveur——if ſtill you are there.——My wife returns to Toulouſe, and purpoſes to ſpend the ſummer at Bagnieres——I on

the

the contrary go and visit my wife, the church in Yorkshire— We will live the longer—at least the happier, for having things our own way.—This is my conjugal maxim—I own 'tis not the best of maxims—but I maintain 'tis not the worst. Adieu, dear F—, and believe me

Yours with truth,

STERNE.

LETTER XLVI.

TO MRS. F.

Montpellier, Feb. 1764.

I AM preparing, my dear Mrs. F., to leave France, for I am heartily tired of it.—That insipidity there is in French character has disgusted your friend Yorick.—I have been dangerously ill, and cannot think that the sharp air of Montpellier has been of service to me—and so my physicians told me when they had me under their hands for above a month.—If you stay any longer here, Sir, it will be fatal to you.—And why, good people, were you not kind enough to tell me this sooner?—Adieu. Having discharged them, I told Mrs. Sterne that I should set out for England very soon; but as she chooses to remain in France for two or three years, I have no objection, except that I wish my girl in England.—The states of Languedoc are met—'tis a fine

fine raree-shew, with the usual accompaniments of fiddles, bears, and puppet-shews.——I believe I shall step into my post chaise with more alacrity to fly from these sights, than a Frenchman would to fly to them———and, except a tear at parting with my little slut, I shall be in high spirits; and every step I take that brings me nearer England, will, I think, help to set this poor frame to rights. Now, pray write to me, directed to Mr F. at Paris, and tell me what I am to bring you over.—How do I long to greet all my friends! Few do I value more than yourself.—My wife chooses to go to Montauban, rather than stay here, in which I am truly passive—If this should not find you at Bath I hope it will be forwarded to you, as I wish to fulfil your commissions—and so adieu———Accept every warm wish for your health, and believe me ever yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S.—My physicians have almost poisoned me with what they call *bouillon à grand bissans*—'tis a cock flay'd alive, and boiled with poppy seeds, then pounded in a mortar, afterwards pass'd through a sieve———There is to be one crawfish bin in and I was gravely told it must be a male one———a female would do me more hurt than good.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

TO MISS STERNE.

Paris, May 15, 1764.

MY DEAR LYDIA,

BY this time I suppose your mother and self are fixed at Montauban, and I therefore direct to your banker, to be delivered to you.—I acquiesced in your staying in France—likewise it was your mother's wish—but I must tell you both, that (unless your health had not been a plea made use of) I should have wished you both to return with me.—I have sent you the Spectator and other books, particularly Metastasio; but I beg my girl to read the former, and only make the latter her amusement.—I hope you have not forgot my last request, to make no friendships with the French women——not that I think ill of them all, but sometimes women of the best principles are the most *insinuating*.——nay I am so jealous of you, that I should be miserable, were I to see you had the least grain of coquetry in your composition.—You have enough to do—for I have also sent you a guitar—and as you have no genius for drawing (though you never could be made to believe it,) pray waste not your time about it—Remmeber to write to me as to a friend—In short, whatever comes into your little head, and then it will be natural. If

your

your mother's rheumatism continues, and she chooses to go to Bagnieres.—tell her not to be stopped for want of money, for my purse shall be as open as my heart. I have preached at the Ambassador's chapel—Hezekiah *—(an odd subject your mother will say.) There was a concourse of all nations, and religions too.—I shall leave Paris in a few days——I am lodged in the same hotel with Mr I——, they are good and generous souls.—Tell your mother that I hope she will write to me and that when she does so, I may also receive a letter from my Lydia.

—Kiss your mother from me, and believe me

Your affectionate

L. STERNE.

LETTER XLVIII.

TO MR FOLEY.

York, August 6. 1764.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

THERE is a young lady with whom I have sent a letter to you, who will arrive at Paris in her way to Italy—her name is Miss Tutting; a lady known and loved by the whole kingdom—if you can be of any aid to her in your advice, &c. as to her journey, &c. your good nature and politeness I am sure need no spur from me to do it. I

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* See Vol. vi. Ser. 17.

was sorry we were like the two buckets of a well, whilst in London, for we were never able to be both resident together the month I continued in and about the environs.——If I get a cough this winter which holds me three days, you will certainly see me in Paris the week following, for now I abandon every thing in this world to health and to my friends ——for the last sermon that I shall ever preach was preached at Paris—so I am altogether an idle man, or rather a free one, which is better. I sent last post, twenty pounds to Mrs Sterne, which makes a hundred pounds remitted since I got here.——You must pay yourself what I owe you out of it—and place the rest to account.——Betwixt this and Lady-day next, Mrs Sterne, will draw from time to time upon you to about the amount of a hundred louis—but not more—(I think) I have left her a hundred in her pocket.——But you shall always have money beforehand of mine——and she purposes to spend no further than five thousand livres in the year——but twenty pound, this way or that, makes no difference between us.——Give my kind compliments to Mr P— I have a thousand things to say to you, and would go half way to Paris to tell them you in your ear.—The Messrs F——, H——, &c. and many more of your friends with whom I am now, send their services——Adieu to all friends —Yours, dear F. most truly.

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER XLIX.

September 4. 1764.

NOW, my dear, dear Anthony—I do not think a week or ten days playing the good fellow (at this very time) at Scarborough ſo abominable a thing—but if a man could get there cleverly, and every ſoul in his houſe in the mind to try what could be done in furtherance thereof, I have no one to conſult in this affair—therefore, as a man may do worſe things, the Engliſh of all which is this, that I am going to leave a few poor ſheep here in the wilderneſs for fourteen days—and from pride and naughtineſs of heart, to go ſee what is doing at Scarborough—ſteadfaſt meaning afterwards to lead a new life, and ſtrengthen my faith.—Now ſome folk ſay there is much company there———and ſome ſay not—and I believe there is neither the one or the other—but will be both, if the world will have but a month's patience or ſo.—No, my dear H——, I did not delay ſending your letter directly to the poſt.—As there are critical times, or rather turns and revolutions in ***'s humours, I knew not what the delay of an hour might hazard—I will anſwer for him, he has ſeventy times ſeven forgiven you—and as often

ten wiſhed you at the d—l.——After many oſcillations, the pendulum will reſt firm as ever.——

I SEND all kind compliment to Sir C. D— and G—s. I love them from my ſoul——If G——t is with you, him alſo.—I go on, not rapidly, but well enough with my uncle Toby's amours—There is no ſitting and cudgelling one's brains whilſt the ſun ſhines bright—'twill be all over in ſix or ſeven weeks, and then are diſmal months enow after to endure ſuffocation by a brimſtone fire-ſide—If you can get to Scarborough, do.—A man who makes ſix tuns of alum a week may do any thing—Lord Granby is to be there——what a tempta-tion!

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER L.

TO THE SAME.

Coxwould, Thurſday [Sept. 1764.]

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I AM but this moment returned from Scarborough, where I have been drinking the waters ever ſince the races, and have received marvellous ſtrength, had I not debilitated it as faſt as I got it, by playing the good fellow with Lord Granby and ſo, too much. I rejoice you have been encamp'd

at

at Harrowgate, from which, by now, I suppose you are decamp'd——otherwise, as idle a beast as I have been, I would have sacrificed a few days to the god of laughter with you and your jolly set,—I have done nothing good that I know of, since I left you, except paying off your guinea and a half to K——, in my way through York hither—I must try now and do better——Go on, and prosper for a month.

Your affectionate

L. STERNE.

LETTER LI.

TO MR. FOLEY, AT PARIS.

York, September, 29. 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVING just had the honour of a letter from Miss Tutting, full of the acknowledgments of your attention and kind services to her, I will not believe these arose from the D. of A——'s letters nor mine. Surely *she needed no recommendation*—— The truest and most honest compliment I can pay you, is to say they came from your own good heart only you was introduced to the object—for the rest followed in course—However, let me call in my mite of thanks to the treasury which belongs to good-natured actions. I have been with Lord G——y three weeks at Scarborough——the pleasures of which

which I found somewhat more exalted than those of Bagnieres last year.——I am now returned to my Philosophical Hut to finish Tristram, which I calculate will be ready for the world about Christmas, at which time I decamp from hence, and fix my head-quarters at London for the winter—unless my cough pushes me forwards to your metropolis—or that I can persuade some *gros* my Lord to take a trip to you—I'll try if I can make him relish the joys of the *Tuilleries*, *Opera Comique*, &c.

I HAD this week a letter from Mrs Sterne from Montauban, in which she tells me she has occasion for fifty pounds immediately.——Will you send an order to your correspondent at Montauban to pay her so much cash—and I will in three weeks send as much to Becket—But as her purse is low, for GOD's sake write directly——Now you must do something equally essential—to rectify a mistake in the mind of your correspondent there, who it seems gave her a hint not long ago, "*that she was sepa-*"*rated from me for life.*"—Now as this is not true in the first place, and may give a disadvantageous impression of her to those she lives amongst—— 'twould be unmerciful to let her, or my daughter, suffer by it;——so do be so good as to undeceive him—for in a year or two she proposes (and indeed I expect it with impatience from her) to rejoin me—and tell them I have all the confidence in the world she will not spend more than I can afford, and I only mentioned two hundred guineas a year—

because 'twas right to name some certain sum, for which I begged you to give her credit.—I write to you of all my most intimate concerns, as to a brother; so excuse me, dear Foley. God bless you.—Believe me

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

COMPLIMENTS to Mr Panchaud, D'Holbach, &c.

LETTER LII.

TO THE SAME.

York, November 11. 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I SENT, ten days ago, a bank bill of thirty pounds to Mr Becket, and this post one of sixty.—When I get to London, which will be in five weeks, you will receive what shall always keep you in bank for Mrs Sterne; in the mean time I have desired Becket to send you fourscore pounds; and if my wife, before I get to London, should have occasion for fifty louis, let her not wait a minute, and if I have not paid it, a week or a fortnight I know will break no squares with a good and worthy friend. ——I will contrive to send you these two new volumes of Triſtram, as soon as ever I get them from the

the press.——You will read as odd a tour through France as ever was projected or executed by traveller or travel writers, since the world began——it is a laughing good tempered satire against travelling (as *puppies* travel)——Panchaud will enjoy it——I am quite civil to your Parisians——*et pour cause* you know——'tis likely I may see them in spring——Is it possible for you to get me over a copy of my picture any how? If so, I would write to Mademoiselle N—— to make as good a copy from it as she possibly could——with a view to do her service here——and I would remit her the price——I really believe it would be the parent of a dozen of portraits to her, if she executes it with the spirit of the original in your hands——for it will be seen by many——and as my phiz is as remarkable as myself, if the preserves the true character of both, it will do her honour and service too.——Write me a line about this, and tell me you are well and happy——Will you present my kind respects to the worthy Baron——I shall send him one of the best impressions of my picture from Mr Reynold's——another to Monsieur P—— My love to Mr S——n and P——d.

I am most truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LIII.

TO [illegible] ESQ.

NOV. 13. 1764.

DEAR, DEAR COUSIN,

THIS is a church militant week with me, full of [illegible] (marches) and counter marches—and reaches about Stillington common, which we are going to incircle—otherwise I would have obeyed your summons—and yet I could not well have done it this week neither, having received a letter from C—, who has been very ill, and is coming down to stay a week or ten days with me.—Now I know he is ambitious of being better acquainted with you; and longs from his soul for a sight of you in your own castle.—I cannot do otherwise than bring him with me——nor can I gallop away and leave him an empty house to pay a visit to from London, as he comes half express to see me.—I thank you for the care of my northern vintage—I fear after all I must give it a fermentation on the other side of the Alps, which is better than being on the lees with it——but *nous verrons*——yet I fear, as it has got such hold of my brain, and comes upon it like an armed man at night——I must give way for quietness sake, or be hag-ridden with the conceit of it all my life long.—I have been *Mijs-ridden* this last week by a couple

couple of romping girls (*bien mises et comme il faut*) who might as well have been in the house with me (though perhaps not, my retreat here is too quiet for them) but they have taken up all my time, and have given my judgment and fancy more airings than they wanted.—These things accord not well with sermon making—but 'tis my vile errantry, as Sancho says, and that is all that can be made of it.—I trust all goes swimmingly on with your alum; that the works amuse you, and call you twice out (at least) a day.—I see them I trust in ten days, or thereabouts—If it was any way possible, I would set out this moment, though I have no cavalry—(*except a she ass.*) Give all friendly respects to Mrs C. and to Col. H——s, and the garrison, both of Guisbro and Skelton.—I am, dear Anthony,

Affectionately yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LIV.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PARIS.

York, November 16. 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THREE posts before I had the favour of yours (which is come to hand this moment) I had wrote to set Mrs Sterne right in her mistake, that you had any money of mine in your hands—I being

very sensible what the hundred pounds I had sent you, through Becket's hands, was but about what would balance with you.—The reason of her error was owing to my writing her word, I would send you a bill in a post or two for fifty pounds—which my finances falling short just then, I deferred—so that I had paid nothing more than—but was, however, I come to York this day, and I have sent you a draught for a hundred pounds.—In honest truth, a fortnight ago I had not the cash——but I am as honest as the king (as Sancho Panca says) *only not so rich.*

THEREFORE if Mrs Sterne should want thirty louis more, let her have them—I—and I will balance all (which will not be much) with honour at Christmas, when I shall be in London, having now just finished my two volumes of Triſtram.——I have some thoughts of going to Italy this year—at leaſt I ſhould not defer it above another,——I have been with Lord Granby, and with Lord Shelburne, but I am now ſat down with December in my ſweet retirement.—I wiſh you was ſat down as happily, and as free of all worldly cares.—In a few years, my dear F, I hope to ſee you a real country gentleman, though not altogether exiled from your friends in London——there I ſhall ſpend every winter of my life, in the ſame lap of contentment, where I enjoy myſelf now—ride—and wherever I go—we muſt bring three parts into four of the treat along with us.——I

In short, we must be happy within—and then few things without, can make much difference.—This is my Shandean philosophy.—You will read a comic account of my journey from Calais, through Paris, to the Garonne, in these volumes—my friends tell me they are done with spirit—it must speak for itself.—Give my kind respects to Mr Selwin and my friend Panchaud.——When you see Baron D'Holbach, present him my respects, and believe me, dear F.,

Yours cordially,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LV.

TO DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.

London, March 6, 1765.

DEAR GARRICK,

I THREATENED you with a letter in one I wrote a few weeks ago to Foley, but (to my shame be it spoken) I led such a life of dissipation, I have never had a moment to myself which has not been broke in upon, by one engagement or impertinence or other—and as plots thicken towards the latter end of a piece, I find, unless I take pen and ink just now, I shall not be able to do it, till either I am got into the country, or you to the city. You are teazed and tormented too much by your correspon-

pondents, to return to us, and with accounts how much your friends, and how much your Theatre wants you—so that I will not magnify either our loss or yours——but hope cordially to see you soon. —Since I wrote last, I have frequently slept into your house—that is, as frequently as I could take the whole party, where I dined, along with me—This was but justice to you, as I walked in as a wit ——but with regard to myself, I balanced the account thus—I am sometimes in my friend ——'s house, but he is always in Tristram Shandy's—— where my friends say he will continue (and I hope the prophecy true for my own immortality) even when he himself is no more.

I HAVE had a lucrative winter's campaign here—Shandy sells well——I am taxing the public with two more volumes of Sermons, which will more than double the gains of Shandy—It goes into the world with a prancing list *de toute la noblesse*—— which will bring me in three hundred pounds, exclusive of the sale of the copy——so that with all the contempt of money which *ma façon de penser* has ever impressed on me, I shall be rich in spite of myself: but I scorn, you must know, in the high *ton* I take at present, to pocket all this trash—I set out to lay a portion of it out in the service of the world, in a tour round Italy, where I shall spring game, or the deuce is in the dice.—In the beginning of September I quit England, that I may avail myself of the time of vintage, when all nature is joy-

ous

ous, and so saunter philosophically for a year or so, on the other side the Alps.—I hope your pilgrimages have brought Mrs Garrick and yourself back *a la fleur de jeunesse*—May you both long feel the sweets of it, and your friends with you.—Do, dear friend, make my kindest wishes and compliments acceptable to the best and wisest of the daughters of Eve——You shall ever believe, and ever find me affectionately yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LVI.

TO THE SAME.

Bath, April 6, 1765.

I SCALP you!——my dear Garrick! my dear friend! foul befal the man who hurts a hair of your head!——and so full was I of that very sentiment, that my letter had not been put into the post-office ten minutes, before my heart smote me; and I sent to recal it——but, failed——You are sadly to blame, Shandy! for this, quoth I, leaning with my head on my hand, as I recriminated upon my false delicacy in the affair—Garrick's nerves (if he has any left) are as fine and delicately spun as my own——his sentiments as honest and friendly——thou knowest, Shandy, that he loves thee——why wilt thou hazard him a moment's pain? Puppy! fool, coxcomb,

coxcomb, jackass, &c. &c.—and so I balanced the account to your favour, before I received it drawn up in *your way*——I say *your way*!——for it is not stated so much to your honour and credit, as I had passed the account before—for it was a most lamented truth, that I never received one of the letters your friendship meant me, except whilst in Paris—Oh! how I congratulate you for the anxiety the world has, and continues to be under, for your return.—Return, return to the few who love you, and the thousands who admire you.——The moment you set your foot upon your stage——mark! I tell it you—by some magic irresistled power, every fibre about your heart will vibrate afresh, and as strong and feelingly as ever—Nature with glory at her back, will light up the torch within you——and there is enough of it left, to heat and enlighten the world these many, many, many years.

Heaven be praised! (I utter it from my soul) that your lady and my Minerva, is in a condition to walk to Windsor——Full rapturously will I lead the graceful pilgrim to the temple, where I will sacrifice with the purest innocence to her——but you may worship with me, or not—'twill make no difference either in the truth or warmth of my devotion——still (after all I have seen) I still maintain her peerless.

Powel! good Heaven!—give me some one with less smoke and more fire——There are who, like the Pharisees, still think they shall be heard for

much

much speaking!——Come——come away, my dear Garrick, and teach us another leſſon.

ADIEU!——I love you dearly——and your lady better——not hobbihorſically—but moſt ſentimentally and affectionately—for I am yours (that is, if you never ſay another word about——) with all the ſentiments of love and friendſhip you deſerve from me.

L. STERNE.

LETTER LVII.

TO MR FOLEY.

Bath, April 15. 1765.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

MY wife tells me ſhe has drawn for one hundred pounds, and 'tis fit that you ſhould be paid no that minute——the money is now in Becket's hands——I ſend me, my dear Foley, my account, that I may diſcharge the balance to this time, and know what to leave in your hands——I have made a good campaign of it this year in the field of the literati——my own volumes of Triſtram, and two of ſermons, which I ſhall print very ſoon, will bring me a conſiderable ſum.——Almoſt all the nobility in England honour me with their names, and 'tis thought it will be the largeſt and moſt ſplendid liſt which ever pranced before a book, ſince ſubſcriptions

came

came into faſhion.—Pray preſent my moſt ſincere compliments to Lady H—, whoſe name I hope to inſert with many others —As ſo many men of genius favour me with their names alſo, I will quarrel with Mr Hume, and call him Deiſt, and what not, unleſs I have his name too.—My love to Lord W——. Your name, Foley, I have put in as a free will-offering of my labours—your liſt of ſubſcribers you will ſend——'tis but a crown for ſixteen ſermons—Dog cheap! but I am in queſt of honour, not money.—Adieu, adieu,—believe me, dear Foley,

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LVIII.

TO MR W.

Coxwould, May 23. 1765.

AT this moment I am ſitting in my ſummer houſe with my head and heart full, not of my Uncle Toby's amours with the widow Wadman, but my ſermons—and your letter has drawn me out of a penſive mood—the ſpirit of it *pleaſeth me* ——But in this ſolitude, what can I tell or write to you but about myſelf——I am glad that you are in love——'twill cure you at leaſt of the ſpleen, which has a bad effect on both man and woman——I myſelf

ſelf muſt ever have ſome Dulcinea in my head—it harmoniſes the ſoul—and in thoſe caſes I firſt endeavour to make the lady believe ſo, or rather I begin firſt to make myſelf believe that I am in love ——but I carry on my affairs quite in the French way, ſentimentally——"*l'amour*" (ſay they) "*ne'eſt* "*rien ſans ſentiment*"—Now notwithſtanding they make ſuch a pother about the *word*, they have no preciſe idea annex'd to it—And ſo much for that ſame ſubject called Love.——I muſt tell you how I have juſt treated a French gentleman of fortune in France, who took a liking to my daughter.—— Without any ceremony (having got my direction from my wife's banker) he wrote me word that he was in love with my daughter, and deſired to know what *fortune* I would give her at preſent, and how much at my *death*——by the by, I think there was very little *ſentiment* on *his ſide*—My anſwer was, "Sir, I ſhall give her ten thouſand pounds the day of marriage—my calculation is as follows——ſhe is not eighteen, you are ſixty-two——there goes five thouſand pounds—then, Sir, you at leaſt think her not ugly—ſhe has many accompliſhments, ſpeaks Italian, French, plays upon the guitar, and as I fear you play upon no inſtrument whatever, I think you will be happy to take her at my terms, for here finiſhes the account of the ten thouſand pounds" —I do not ſuppoſe but he will take this as I mean, that is—a flat refuſal.—I have had a parſonage houſe burnt down by the careleſsneſs of my curate's

wife as ſoon as I can I muſt rebuild it, I trow—but I lack the means at preſent—yet I am never happier than when I have not a ſhilling in my pocket—for when I have I can never call it my own.—Adieu, my dear friend—may you enjoy a better health than me, though not better ſpirits, for that is impoſſible. Yours ſincerely,

L. STERNE.

My compliments to the Col.

LETTER LIX.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PARIS.

York, July 13. 1765.

MY DEAR SIR,

I WROTE ſome time in Spring, to beg you would favour me with my account. I believe you was ſet out from Paris, and that Mr Garrick brought the letter with him—which poſſibly he gave you. In the hurry of your buſineſs you might forget the contents of it; and in the hurry of mine in town (though I called once) I could not get to ſee you. I decamp for Italy in September, and ſhall ſee your face at Paris, you may be ſure—but I ſhall ſee it with more pleaſure when I am out of debt—which is your own fault, for Becket has had money left in his hands for that purpoſe.—Do ſend

Mrs

Mrs Sterne her two laſt volumes of Triſtram; they arrived with yours in Spring, and ſhe complains ſhe has not got them—My beſt ſervices to Mr Panchaud. —I am buſy compoſing two volumes of ſermons —they will be printed in September, though I fear not time enough to bring them with me. Your name is amongſt the liſt of a few of my honorary ſubſcribers—who ſubſcribe for love,—If you ſee Baron D'Holbach, and Diderot, preſent my reſpects to them——If the Baron wants any Engliſh books, he will let me know, and I will bring them with me—Adieu.

I am truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LX.

TO THE SAME.

London, October 7. 1765.

DEAR SIR,

IT is a terrible thing to be in Paris without a perriwig on a man's head! In ſeven days from the date of this, I ſhould be in that caſe, unleſs you tell your neighbour Madame Requiere to get her *bon mari de me faire une peruque a bourſe, au mieux —c'eſt a dire—une la plus extraordinaire—la plus jolie—la plus gentille—et la plus——*

——Mais qu'importe? j'ai l'honneur d'etre grand critique—et bien difficile encore dans les af-

faires de peruques——and in one word, that he gets it done in five days after notice.—

I BEG pardon for this liberty, my dear friend, and for the trouble of forwarding this by the very next poſt.—If my friend Mr F. is in Paris, my kind love to him, and reſpects to all others—in ſad haſte——

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

I HAVE paid into Mr Becket's hands ſix hundred pounds, which you may draw upon at ſight, according as either Mrs Sterne or myſelf make it expedient.

LETTER LXI.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

Beau Point Voiſin, November 7. 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I FORGOT to deſire you to forward whatever letters came to your hand to your banker at Rome, to wait for me againſt I get there, as it is uncertain how long I may ſtay at Turin, &c. &c. at preſent I am held priſoner in this town by the ſudden ſwelling of two pitiful rivulets, from the ſnows melting on the Alps—ſo that we cannot either advance to them, or retire back again to Lyons—for how

how long the gentlemen who are my fellow travellers, and myſelf, ſhall languiſh in this ſtate of vexatious captivity, heaven and earth ſurely know, for it rains as if they were coming together to ſettle the matter.—I had an agreeable journey to Lyons, and a joyous time there: dining and ſupping every day at the commandant's—Lord F. W. I left there, and about a dozen Engliſh——If you ſee Lord Oſſory, Lord William Gordon, and my friend Mr Crawford, remember me to them——if Wilkes is at Paris yet, I ſend him all kind wiſhes——preſent my compliments as well as thanks to my good friend Miſs P——; and believe me, dear Sir, with all truth, yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXII.

TO THE SAME.

Turin, November 15. 1765.

DEAR SIR,

AFTER many difficulties I have got here ſafe and ſound——though eight days in paſſing the mountains of Savoy.—I am ſtopped here for ten days, by the whole country betwixt here and Milan being laid under water by continual rains—but I am very happy, and have found my way into a dozen houſes already——To-morrow I am to be preſented to the King, and when that ceremony is over, I ſhall have

my hands full of engagements—No Engliſh here but Sir James Macdonald, who meets with much reſpect, and Mr Ogilby. We are all together, and ſhall depart in peace together—My kind ſervices to all—pray forward the incloſed———

Yours moſt truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXIII.

TO THE SAME.

Turin, November 28. 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I AM juſt leaving this place with Sir James Macdonald for Milan, &c.——We have ſpent a joyous fortnight here, and met with all kinds of honours—and with regret do we both bid adieu—But health on my ſide—and good ſenſe on his——ſay 'tis better to be at Rome—you ſay at Paris—but you put variety out of the queſtion.—I entreat you to forward the incloſed to Mrs Sterne—My compliments to all friends, more particularly to thoſe I moſt value (that includes Mr F. if he is in Paris.)

I am yours moſt truly,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER LXIV.

TO THE SAME.

Florence, December 18. 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE been a month paſſing the plains of Lombardy——ſtopping in my way at Milan, Parma, Placenza, and Bologna—with weather as delicious as a kindly April in England, and have been three days in croſſing a part of the Appennines covered with thick ſnow——Sad tranſition!——I ſtay here three days to dine with our Plenipo, Lords T——d and C——r, and in five days ſhall tread the Vatican, and be introduced to all the Saints in the Pantheon.—I ſtay but fourteen days to pay theſe civilities, and then decamp for Naples.—Pray ſend the incloſed to my wife, and Becket's letter to London.

Yours truly,

LETTER LXV.

TO MISS STERNE.

Naples, February 3. 1766.

MY DEAR GIRL,

YOUR letter, my Lydia, has made me both laugh and cry.——Sorry am I that you are both ſo afflicted with the ague, and by all means I wiſh you both to fly from Tours, becauſe I remember it is ſituated between two rivers, la Loire, and le Cher—which muſt occaſion fogs, and damp unwholſome weather—therefore for the ſame reaſon go not to Bourges en Breſſe—'tis as vile a place for agues.—I find myſelf infinitely better than I was—and hope to have added at leaſt ten years to my life by this journey to Italy—— the climate is heavenly, and I find new principles of health in me, which I have been long a ſtranger to—but truſt me, my Lydia, I will find you out, wherever you are, in May. Therefore I beg you to direct to me at Belloni's at Rome, that I may have ſome idea where you will be then.—The account you give me of Mrs C—— is truly amiable, I ſhall ever honour her—Mr C. is a diverting companion——what he ſaid of your little French admirer was truly droll—— The Marquis de —— is an impoſtor, and not worthy of your acquaintance——he only pretended to know me, to get introduced to your mother—I deſire

ſire you will get your mother to write to Mr C. that I may diſcharge every debt, and then, my Lydia, if I live, the produce of my pen ſhall be yours—If fate reſerves me not that—the humane and good, part for thy father's ſake, part for thy own, will never abandon thee!—if your mother's health will permit her to return with me to England, your ſummers I will render as agreeable as I can at Coxwould—your winters at York—you know my publications call me to London—If Mr and Mrs C— are ſtill at Tours, thank them from me for their cordiality to my wife and daughter. I have purchaſed you ſome little trifles, which I ſhall give you when we meet, as proofs of affection from

Your fond father,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXVI.

TO J—— H—— S——, ESQ.

Naples, February 5. 1766.

MY DEAR H,

'TIS an age ſince I have heard from you—but as I read the London Chronicle, and find no tidings of your death, or that you are even at the point of it, I take it, as I wiſh it, that you have got over thus much of the winter, free from the damps, both of climate and ſpirits; and here I am, as happy as a

King after all, growing fat, ſleek, and well liking—not improving in ſtature, but in breadth.—— We have a jolly carnival of it——nothing but operas—punchinellos—feſtinoes and maſquerades—We (that is, *nous autres*) are all dreſſing out for one this night at the Princeſs Francavivalla, which is to be ſuperb. ——The Engliſh dine with her (excluſive:) and ſo much for ſmall chat——except that I ſaw a little comedy acted laſt week with more expreſſion and ſpirit, and true character, than I ſhall ſee one haſtily again.——I ſtay here till the holy week, which I ſhall paſs at Rome, where I occupy myſelf a month ——My plan was to have gone from thence for a fortnight to Florence—and then by Leghorn to Marſeilles directly home—but am diverted from this by the repeated propoſals of accompanying a gentleman, who is returning by Venice, Vienna, Saxony, Berlin, and ſo by the Spaw, and thence through Holland to England——'tis with Mr E. I have known him theſe three years, and have been with him ever ſince I reach'd Rome; and as I know him to be a good-hearted young gentleman, I have no doubt of making it anſwer both his views and mine—at leaſt I am perſuaded we ſhall return home together, as we ſat out, with friendſhip and good will.—Write your next letter to me at Rome, and do me the following favour if it lies in your way, which I think it does——to get me a letter of recommendation to our Ambaſſador (Lord Stormont at Vienna.) I have not the honour to be known to his

his Lordſhip, but Lords P—— or H——, or twenty you better know, would write a certificate for me, importing, that I am not fallen out of the clouds. If this will coſt my couſin little trouble, do incloſe it in your next letter to me at Belloni.—— You have left Skelton I trow a month, and I fear have had a moſt ſharp winter, if one may judge of it from the ſeverity of the weather here, and all over Italy, which exceeded any thing known, till within theſe three weeks that the ſun has been as hot as we could bear it.—Give my kind ſervices to my friends—eſpecially to the houſehold of faith—my dear Garland—to Gilbert—to the worthy Colonel ——to Cardinal S——, to my fellow labourer Pantagruel——Dear Couſin Antony, receive my kindeſt love and wiſhes.

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

P. S. UPON ſecond thoughts direct your next to me at Mr W. banker at Venice.

LETTER LXVII.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PARIS.

Naples, February 8. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I DESIRE Mrs Sterne may have what caſh ſhe wants——if ſhe has not received it before now: ſhe ſends me word ſhe has been in want of caſh theſe three weeks—be ſo kind as to prevent this uneaſineſs to her——which is doubly ſo to me.—I have made very little uſe of your letters of credit, having ſince I left Paris taken up no more money than about fifty louis at Turin—as much at Rome—and a few ducats here——and as I now travel from hence to Rome, Venice, through Vienna to Berlin, &c. with a gentleman of fortune, I ſhall draw for little more till my return——ſo you will have always enough to ſpare for my wife.—The beginning of March be ſo kind as to let her have a hundred pounds to begin her year with—

THERE are a good many Engliſh here, very few in Rome, or other parts of Italy.—The air of Naples agrees very well with me—I ſhall return fat—my friendſhip to all who honour me with theirs—Adieu, my dear friend—I am ever yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXVIII.

TO MR PANÇHAUD, AT PARIS.

Naples, February 14. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE laſt week to you, to deſire you would let Mrs Sterne have what money ſhe wanted ——it may happen, as that letter went incloſed in one to her at Tours, that you will receive this firſt ——I have made little uſe of your letters of credit, as you will ſee by that letter, nor ſhall I want much (if any) till you ſee me, as I travel now in company with a gentleman——However, as we return by Venice, Vienna, Berlin, &c. to the Spaw, I ſhould be glad if you will draw me a letter of credit upon ſome one at Venice, to the extent of fifty louis—— but I am perſuaded I ſhall not want half of them— however, in caſe of ſickneſs or accidents, one would not go ſo long a route without money in one's pocket.—The bankers here are not ſo conſcientious as my friend P.; they would make me pay twelve per cent. if I was to get a letter here.—I beg your letters, &c. may be incloſed to Mr Watſon at Venice—where we ſhall be in the Aſcenſion—I have received much benefit from the air of Naples —but quit it to be at Rome before the holy week. —There

There are about ffve-and-twenty Engliſh here—but moſt of them will be decamp'd in two months ——there are ſcarce a third of the number at Rome ——I ſuppoſe therefore that Paris is full—My warmeſt wiſhes attend you.——With my love to Mr F. and compliments to all, I am, dear Sir, very faithfully,

Yours,

L. SEERNE.

SIR James Macdonald is in the houſe with me, and is juſt recovering a long and moſt cruel fit of the rheumatiſm.

LETTER LXIX.

TO J—— H—— S——, ESQ.

May 25. near Dijon [1766.]

DEAR ANTONY,

MY deſire of ſeeing both my wife and girl, has turn'd me out of my road towards a delicious chateau of the Counteſs of M——, where I have been patriarching it theſe ſeven days with her ladyſhip, and half a dozen of very handſome and agreeable ladies—Her ladyſhip has the beſt of hearts—a valuable preſent not given to every one. To morrow, with regret, I ſhall quit this agreeable circle, and poſt it night and day to Paris, where I ſhall arrive in two days, and juſt wind myſelf up, when I

am

am there, enough to roll on to Calais——ſo I hope to ſup with you the King's birth-day, according to a plan of ſixteen days ſtanding.—Never man has been ſuch a wild-gooſe chace after a wife as I have been—after having ſought her in five or ſix different towns, I found her at laſt in *Franche Compte*—Poor woman! ſhe was very cordial, &c. and begs to ſtay another year or ſo—My Lydia pleaſes me much—I found her greatly improved in every thing I wiſhed her—I am moſt unaccountably well, and moſt unaccountably nonſenſical——'tis at leaſt a proof of good ſpirits, which is a ſign and token given me in theſe latter days, that I muſt take up again the pen.—In faith I think I ſhall die with it in my hand, but I ſhall live theſe ten years, my Antony, notwithſtanding the fears of my wife, whom I left moſt melancholy on that account. This is a delicious part of the world; moſt celeſtial weather, and we lie all day, without damps upon the graſs—and that is the whole of it, except the inner man (for her ladyſhip is not ſtingy of her wine) is inſpired twice a day with the beſt Burgundy that grows upon the mountains which terminate our lands here.—Surely you will not have decamped to Crazy Caſtle before I reach town.—The ſummer here is ſet in in good earneſt—'tis more than we can ſay for Yorkſhire—I hope to hear a good tale of your alum-works—have you no other works in hand?

I do

I do not expect to hear from you—ſo God proſper you, and all your undertakings.—I am my dear couſin,

Moſt affectionately yours,

L. STERNE.

REMEMBER me to Mr G—, CardinalS—, the Col. &c. &c. &c.

LETTER LXX.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

York, June 28. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE laſt week to Mr Becket to diſcharge the balance due to you—and I have received a letter from him, telling me, that if you will draw upon him for one hundred and ſixty pounds, he will punctually pay it to your order—ſo ſend the draughts when you pleaſe.——Mrs Sterne writes me word, ſhe wants fifty pounds.—which I deſire you will let her have.—I will take care to remit it to your correſpondent—I have ſuch an entire confidence in my wife, that ſhe ſpends as little as ſhe can, though ſhe is confined to no particular ſum—her expences will not exceed three hundred pounds a-year, unleſs by ill health, or a journey—and I am very willing ſhe ſhould have it—and you may rely, in caſe it e-

ever

ver happens that ſhe ſhould draw for fifty or a hundred pounds extraordinary, that it and every demand ſhall be punctually paid—and with proper thanks; and for this the whole Shandean family are ready to ſtand ſecurity.—'Tis impoſſible to tell you how ſorry I was that my affairs hurried me ſo quick through Paris, as to deprive me of ſeeing my old friend Mr Foley, and of the pleaſure I propoſed in being made known to his better half—but I have a probability of ſeeing him this winter.—Adieu, dear Sir, and believe me

Moſt cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S. MRS Sterne is going to Chalons, but your letter will find her, I believe, at Avignon—ſhe is very poorly—and my daughter writes to me with ſad grief of heart, that ſhe is worſe.

LETTER LXXI.

TO MR S.

Coxwould, July 23. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

ONE might be led to think that there is a fatality regarding us—we make appointments to meet, and for theſe two years have not ſeen each other's face but twice—we muſt try and do better for the future——Having ſought you with more zeal, than

than C.... ſought the Lord, in order to deliver you the books you bade me purchaſe for you at Paris, I was forced to pay carriage for them from London down to York—but as I ſhall neither charge you the books nor the carriage, 'tis not worth talking about.——Never man my dear Sir, has had a more agreeable tour than your Yorick—and at preſent I am in my peaceful retreat, writing the ninth volume * of Triſtram——I ſhall publiſh but one this year, and the next I ſhall begin a new work of four volumes, which when finiſhed, I ſhall continue Triſtram with freſh ſpirit. What a differeuce of ſcene here! But, with a diſpoſition to be happy, 'tis neither this place, nor t'other, that renders us the reverſe.—In ſhort, each man's happineſs depends upon himſelf—he is a fool if he does not enjoy it.

WHAT are you about, dear S——? Give me ſome account of your pleaſures—you had better come to me for a fortnight, and I will ſhew, or give you (if needful,) a practical doſe of my philoſophy; but I hope you do not want it—if you did, 'twould be the office of a friend to give it——Will not even our races tempt you? You ſee I uſe all arguments——Believe me yours moſt truly.

LAURENCE STERNE.

LET-

* Alluding to the firſt edition.

LETTER LXXII.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

Coxwould, September 21 1766.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IF Mrs Sterne ſhould draw upon you for fifty louis d'ors, be ſo kind as to remit her the money—and pray be ſo good as not to draw upon Mr Becket for it (as he owes me nothing) but favour me with the draught, which I will pay to Mr Selwin.—A young nobleman is now negociating a jaunt with me for ſix weeks, about Chriſtmas, to the Fauxbourg de St Germain—I ſhould like much to be with you for ſo long—and if my wife grow worſe (having had a very poor account of her in my daughter's laſt) I cannot think of her being without me———and however expenſive the journey would be, I would fly to Avignon to adminiſter conſolation to both her and my poor girl———Wherever I am, believe dear Sir,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

My kind compliments to Mr Foley: though I have not the honour of knowing his rib, I ſee no reaſon why I may not preſent all due reſpects to the better

better half of ſo old a friend, which I do by theſe preſents—with my friendlieſt wiſhes to Miſs P.

LETTER LXXIII.

TO MR FOLEY, AT PARIS.

Coxwould, October 25. 1766.

MY DEAR FOLEY,

I DESIRED you would be ſo good as to remit to Mrs Sterne fifty louis, a month ago—I dare ſay you have done it—but her illneſs muſt have coſt her a good deal———therefore having paid the laſt fifty pounds into Mr Selwin's hands, I beg you to ſend her thirty guineas more—for which I ſend a bank bill to Mr Becket by this poſt—but ſurely had I not done ſo, you would not ſtick at it—for be aſſured, my dear Foley, that the Firſt Lord of the Treaſury is neither more able or more willing (nor perhaps half ſo punctual) in repaying with honour all I ever can be in your books.—My daughter ſays her mother is very ill—and I fear going faſt down by all accounts—'tis melancholy in her ſituation to want any aid that is in my power to give———do write to her—and believe me, with all compliments to your Hotel,

Yours very truly,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER LXXIV.

TO MR PANCHAUD.

York, November 25, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I JUST received yours—and am glad that the balance of accounts is now paid to you——Thus far all goes well—I have received a letter from my daughter with the pleasing tidings that she thinks her mother out of danger——and that the air of the country is delightful (excepting the winds;) but the description of the chateau my wife has hired is really pretty——on the side of the Fountain of Vanclute—with seven rooms of a floor, half furnished with tapestry, half with blue taffety; the permission to fish, and to have game; so many partridges a week, &c.; and the price——guess! sixteen guineas a year——there's for you, P. About the latter end of next month, my wife will have occasion for a hundred guineas—and pray be so good, my dear Sir, as to give orders that she may not be disappointed—she is going to spend the Carnival at Marseilles at Christmas——I shall be in London by Christmas week, and then shall balance this remittance to Mrs S. with Mr S——. I am going to lie-in of another child of the Shandaick procreation, in town—I hope you wish me a safe delivery—I fear my friend Mr F. will have left town before I get there—Adieu, dear

Sir,

Sir——I wiſh you every thing in this world which will do you good; for I am with unfeigned truth,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

MAKE my compliments acceptable to the good and worthy Baron d'Holbach—Miſs P. &c. &c.

LETTER LXXV.

FROM IGNATIUS SANCHO, TO MR STERNE.

[1769.]

REVEREND SIR,

IT would be an inſult on your humanity (or perhaps look like it) to apologize for the liberty I am taking—I am one of thoſe people whom the vulgar and illiberal call negroes.—The firſt part of my life was rather unlucky, as I was placed in a family who judged ignorance the beſt and only ſecurity for obedience.——A little reading and writing I got by unwearied application.—The latter part of my life has been, through God's bleſſing, truly fortunate——having ſpent it in the ſervice of one of the beſt and greateſt families in the kingdom—My chief pleaſure has been books—Philanthropy I adore ——How very much, good Sir, am I (amongſt millions) indebted to you for the character of your amiable Uncle Toby!—I declare I would walk ten miles in the dog days, to ſhake hands with the honeſt Corporal.

Corporal.—Your ſermons have touch'd me to the heart, and I hope have amended it, which brings me to the point——In your tenth diſcourſe *, is this very affecting paſſage——"Conſider how great a part of our ſpecies in all ages down to this—have been trod under the feet of cruel and capricious tyrants, who would hear their cries, nor pity their diſtreſſes—Conſider ſlavery—what it is—how bitter a draught—and how many millions are made to drink of it."——Of all my favourite authors, not one has drawn a tear in favour of my miſerable black brethren—excepting yourſelf, and the humane author of Sir Geo. Elliſon.—I think you will forgive me; I am ſure you will applaud me for beſeeching you to give one half-hour's attention to ſlavery, as it is this day practiſed in our Weſt Indies.—That ſubject handled in your ſtriking manner would eaſe the yoke (perhaps) of many—but if only of one—gracious God! what a feaſt to a benevolent heart! and ſure I am, you are an epicurean in acts of charity.——You who are univerſally read, and as univerſally admired—you could not fail.—Dear Sir, think in me you behold the uplifted hands of thouſands of my brother Moors. Grief (you pathetically obſerve) is eloquent: figure to yourſelf their attitudes; hear

* See Vol. V. of this Edition, Ser. 10.

hear their ſupplicating addreſſes!—alas! you cannot refuſe.—Humanity muſt comply—in which hope I beg permiſſion to ſubſcribe myſelf,

Reverend Sir, &c.

I. S.

LETTER LXXVI.

FROM MR STERNE, TO IGNATIUS SANCHO.

Coxwould, July 27. 1766.

THERE is a ſtrange coincidence, Sancho, in the little events (as well as in the great ones) of this world: for I had been writing a tender tale of the ſorrows of a friendleſs poor negro-girl, and my eyes had ſcarce done ſmarting with it, when your letter of recommendation, in behalf of ſo many of her brethren and ſiſters, came to me——but why *her brethren?* or yours, Sancho! any more than mine? It is by the fineſt tints, and moſt inſenſible gradations, that nature deſcends from the faireſt face about St James's, to the ſootieſt complexion in Africa:—at which tint of theſe is it, that the ties of blood are to ceaſe? and how many ſhades muſt we deſcend lower ſtill in the ſcale, ere mercy is to vaniſh with them? But 'tis no uncommon thing, my good Sancho, for one half of the world to uſe the other half of it like brutes, and then endeavour to

make

make 'em ſo.—For my own part, I never look *weſtward* (when I am in a penſive mood at leaſt) but I think of the burthens which our brothers and ſiſters are there carrying: and could I eaſe their ſhoulders from one ounce of them, I declare I would ſet out this hour upon a pilgrimage to Mecca for their ſakes ——which by the by, Sancho, exceeds your walk of ten miles in about the ſame proportion that a viſit of humanity ſhould one of mere form.——However, if you meant my Uncle Toby, more he is your debtor.——If I can weave the tale I have wrote into the work I am about—'tis at the ſervice of the afflicted—and a much greater matter; for in ſerious truth, it caſts a ſad ſhade upon the world, that ſo great a part of it are, and have been ſo long bound in chains of darkneſs, and in chains of miſery; and I cannot but both reſpect and felicitate you, that by ſo much laudable diligence you have broke the one—and that by falling into the hands of ſo good and merciful a family, Providence has reſcued you from the other.

And ſo, good-hearted Sancho, adieu! and believe me I will not forget your letter.

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXXVII.

TO MR W.

Coxwould, December 20. 1766.

THANKS, my dear W., for your letter.—I am juſt preparing to come and greet you and many other friends in town—I have drained my ink-ſtandiſh to the bottom, and after I have publiſhed, ſhall ſet my face, not towards Jeruſalem, but towards the Alps——I find I muſt once more fly from death whilſt I have ſtrength——I ſhall go to Naples, and ſee whether the air of that place will not ſet this poor frame to rights——As to the project of getting a bear to lead, I think I have enough to do to govern myſelf——and however profitable it might be (according to your opinion,) I am ſure it would be unpleaſurable——Few are the minutes of life, and I do not think that I have any to throw away on any one being.—I ſhall ſpend nine or ten months in Italy, and call upon my wife and daughter in France at my return——ſo ſhall be back by the King's birth-day—what a project!——and now, my dear friend, am I going to York, not for the ſake of ſociety—nor to walk by the ſide of the muddy Ouſe, but to recruit myſelf of the moſt violent ſpitting of blood that ever mortal man experienced; becauſe I had rather (in caſe 'tis ordained ſo) die there, than in a poſt chaiſe on the road.—If the amour of my uncle Toby do

not

not pleaſe you, I am miſtaken——and ſo with a droll ſtory I will finiſh this letter—A ſenſible friend of mine, with whom not along ago, I ſpent ſome hours in converſation, met an apothecary (an acquaintance of ours)—The latter aſked him how he did? why, ill, very ill——I have been with Sterne, who has given me ſuch a doſe of *Attic ſalt*, that I am in a fever—Attic ſalt, Sir, Attic ſalt! I have Glauber ſalt——I have Epſom ſalt in my ſhop, &c.——Oh! I ſuppoſe 'tis ſome French ſalt—I wonder you would truſt his report of the medicine, he cares not what he takes himſelf.——I fancy I ſee you ſmile.——I long to be able to be in London, and embrace my friends there—and ſhall enjoy myſelf a week or ten days at Paris with my Friends, particularly the Baron d'Holbach, and the reſt of the joyous ſet. As to the females—no, I will not ſay a word about them—only I hate borrowed characters, taken up (as a woman does her ſhift) for the purpoſe ſhe intends to effectuate. Adieu, adieu—I am yours whilſt

L. STERNE,

LETTER LXXVIII.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

London, February 13. 1767.

DEAR P.

I PAID yeſterday (by Mr Becket) a hundred guineas, or pounds, I forget which, to Mr Selwin——But you muſt remit to Mrs Sterne at Marſeilles a hundred louis before ſhe leaves that place, which will be in leſs than three weeks. Have you got the ninth volume of Shandy *?——'tis liked the beſt of all here.—I am going to publiſh a Sentimental Journey through France and Italy—the undertaking is protected and highly encouraged by all our nobleſſe—'tis ſubſcribed for at a great rate—'twill be an original—in large quarto——the ſubſcription half a guinea—If you can procure me the honour of a few names of men of ſcience, or faſhion, I ſhall thank you—they will appear in good company, as all the nobility here almoſt have honoured me with their names.—My kindeſt remembrance to Mr Foley—Reſpects to Baron d'Holbach—and believe me ever yours,

L. STERNE.

LET-

* Alluding to the first edition.

LETTER LXXIX.

TO MISS STERNE.

Old Bond-ſtreet, February 23. 1767.

AND ſo, my Lydia! thy mother and thyſelf are returning back again from Marſeilles to the banks of the Sorgue—and there thou wilt ſit and fiſh for trouts——I envy you the ſweet ſituation.—Petrarch's tomb I ſhould like to pay a ſentimental viſit to——the fountain of Vaucluſe, by thy deſcription, muſt be delightful—I am alſo much pleaſed with the account you give me of the Abbe de Sade—you find great comfort in ſuch a neighbour—I am glad he is ſo good as to correct thy tranſlation of my ſermons——dear girl, go on, and make me a preſent of thy work—but why not the Houſe of Mourning? 'tis one of the beſt. I long to receive the life of Petrarch, and his Laura, by your Abbe; but I am out of all patience with the anſwer the marquis made the Abbe——'twas truly coarſe, and I wonder he bore it with any chriſtian patience——But to the ſubject of your letter——I do not wiſh to know who was the buſy fool, who made your mother uneaſy about Mrs ——; 'tis true I have a friendſhip for her, but not to infatuation——I believe I have judgment enough to diſcern hers, and every woman's faults. I honour thy mother for her

anſwer—— "that ſhe wiſhed not to be informed "and begged him to drop the ſubject."——Why do you ſay that your mother wants money?—— whilſt I have a ſhilling, ſhall you not both have nine-pence out of it?—I think, if I have my enjoyments, I ought not to grudge you yours. I ſhall not begin my Sentimental Journey till I get to Coxwould—I have laid a plan for ſomething new, quite out of the beaten track—I wiſh I had you with me—and I would introduce you to one of the moſt amiable and gentleſt of beings, whom I have juſt been with —not Mrs ——, but a Mrs J. the wife of as worthy a man as ever I met with——I eſteem them both. He poſſeſſes every manly virtue—honour and bravery are his characteriſtics, which have diſtinguiſhed him nobly in ſeveral inſtances—I ſhall make you better acquainted with his character, by ſending Orme's Hiſtory, with the books you deſired ——and it is well worth your reading; for Orme is an elegant writer, and a juſt one; he pays no man a compliment at the expence of truth.—Mrs J—— is kind—and friendly—of a ſentimental turn of mind—and ſo ſweet a diſpoſition, that ſhe is too good for the world ſhe lives in—— Juſt GOD! if all were like her, what a life would this be!—Heaven, my Lydia, for ſome wiſe purpoſe has created different beings——I wiſh my dear child knew her—— —thou art worthy of her friendſhip, and ſhe already loves thee; for I ſometimes tell her what I feel for thee.—This is a long letter.—Write ſoon, and never let

your

your letters be ſtudied ones—write naturally, and then you will write well.——I hope your mother has got quite well of her ague—I have ſent her ſome of Huxham's tincture of the bark. I will order you a guitar, ſince the other is broke. Believe me, my Lydia, that I am yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXXX.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

London, February 27. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

MY daughter begs a preſent of me, and you muſt know I can deny her nothing—It muſt be ſtrung with cat-gut and of five chords—*ſic hiama in Italiano la chitera di cinque corde*——ſhe cannot get ſuch a thing at Marſeilles——at Paris one may have every thing—Will you be ſo good to my girl, as to make her happy in this affair, by getting ſome muſical body to buy one, and ſend it her to Avignon directed to Monſieur Teſte?——I wrote laſt week to deſire you would remit Mrs S. a hundred louis—'twill be all, except the guitar, I ſhall owe you——Send me your account, and I will pay Mr Selwin—direct to me at Mr Becket's—all kind reſpects to my friend Mr F. and your ſiſter.

yours cordially,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXXXI *.

TO ELIZA †.

ELIZA will receive my books with this. The ſermons came all hot from the heart: I wiſh that I could give them any title to be offered to yours.—The others came from the head—I am more indifferent about their reception.

I KNOW

* This and the nine following Letters have no dates to them, but were evidently written in the months of March and April 1767. They are therefore here placed together.

† The editor of the first publication of Mr Sterne's Letters to Eliza, gives the following account of this Lady: "Mrs Elizabeth Draper, wife of Daniel Draper, Esq. "counseller at Bombay, and at present (i. e. in 1775.) "chief of the factory at Surat, a gentleman very much "respected in that quarter of the globe.—She is by birth "an East Indian; but the circumstance of being born in "the country, not proving sufficient to defend her deli- "cate frame against the heats of that burning climate, "she came to England for the recovery of her health, "when by accident she became acquainted with Mr Sterne. "He immediately discovered in her a mind so congenial "with his own, so enlightened, so refined, and so tender, "that their mutual attraction presently joined them in "the closest union that purity could possibly admit of. "He loved her as his friend, and prided in her as his "pupil; all her concerns became presently his; her "health, her circumstances, her reputation, her children, "were his; his fortune, his time, his country, were at "her disposal, so far as the sacrifice of all or any of these "might, in his opinion, contribute to her real happiness. "If it is asked, whether the glowing heat of Mr Sterne's "affection never transported him to a flight beyond the

I KNOW not how it comes about, but I am half in love with you—I ought to be wholly ſo; for I never valued (or ſaw more good qualities to value) or thought more of one of your ſex than of you; ſo adieu,

Yours faithfully, if not affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXXXII.

TO THE SAME.

I CANNOT reſt, Eliza, though I ſhall call on you at half paſt twelve, till I know how you do ——May thy dear face ſmile, as thou riſeſt, like the ſun of this morning. I was much grieved to hear of your alarming indiſpoſition yeſterday; and diſappointed

"limits of pure Platonism, the publiſher will not take "upon him abſolutely to deny it; but this he thinks, ſo "far from leaving any ſtain upon that gentleman's me- "mory, that it perhaps includes his faireſt encomium; "ſince to cherish the ſeeds of piety and chaſtity in a "heart which the paſſions are intereſted to corrupt, "muſt be allowed to be the nobleſt effort of a ſoul fraught "and fortified with the juſteſt ſentiments of religion "and virtue."

After reading these letters, the curiosity of the public will be naturally excited to enquire concerning the fate of the lady to whom they were addreſſed. To this queſtion it will be ſufficient to anſwer, that ſhe hath been dead ſome years, and that it might give pain to many worthy perſons if the circumſtances which attended the latter part of her life were diſcloſed, as they are generally ſaid to have reflected no credit either on her prudence or diſcretion.

diſappointed too, at not being let in.—Remember, my dear, that a friend has the ſame right as a phyſician. The etiquettes of this town (you'll ſay) ſay otherwiſe——No matter! Delicacy and propriety do not always conſiſt in obſerving their frigid doctrines.

I AM going out to breakfaſt, but ſhall be at my lodgings by eleven; when I hope to read a ſingle line under thy own hand, that thou art better, and wilt be glad to ſee thy Bramin.

9 o'clock.

LETTER LXXXIII.

TO THE SAME.

I GOT thy letter laſt night, Eliza, on my return from Lord Bathurſt's, where I dined, and where I was heard (as I talked an hour of thee without intermiſſion) with ſo much pleaſure and attention, that the good old Lord toaſted your health three different times; and now he is in his eighty fifth year, ſays he hopes to live long enough to be introduced as a friend to my fair Indian diſciple, and to ſee her eclipſe all other nabobeſſes as much in wealth, as ſhe does already in exterior and (what is far better) in interior merit. I hope ſo too. This nobleman is an old friend of mine.——You know he was always the protector of men of wit and genius; and has had thoſe of the laſt century, Addiſon, Steele, Pope, Swift,

Swift, Prior, &c. &c. always at his table.——The manner in which his notice began of me, was as ſingular as it was polite.—He came up to me one day, as I was at the princeſs of Wales's court. "I "want to know you, Mr Sterne; but it is fit you "ſhould know, alſo, who it is that wiſhes this plea-"ſure. You have heard, continued he, of an old "Lord Bathurſt, of whom your Popes and Swifts "have ſung and ſpoken ſo much: I have lived my "life with geniuſes of that call; but have ſurvived "them; and deſpairing ever to find their equals, it "is ſome years ſince I have cloſed my accounts, and "ſhut up my books, with thoughts of never open-"ing them again; but you have kindled a deſire in "me of opening them once more before I die; "which I now do; ſo go home and dine with me." ——This nobleman, I ſay, is a prodigy; for at eighty five he has all the wit and promptneſs of a man of thirty. A diſpoſition to be pleaſed, and a power to pleaſe others beyond whatever I knew: added to which, a man of learning, courteſy, and feeling.

He heard me talk of thee, Eliza, with uncommon ſatisfaction;——for there was only a third perſon, and of ſenſibility, with us.—And a moſt ſentimental afternoon, till nine o'clock, have we paſſed! But thou, Eliza, wert the ſtar that conducted and enliven'd the diſcourſe.——And when I talked not of thee, ſtill didſt thou fill my mind, and warmed every thought I uttered, for I am not aſhamed to acknowledge

ledge I greatly miſs thee.——Beſt of all good girls! the ſufferings I have ſuſtained the whole night on account of thine, Eliza, are beyond my power of words.—Aſſuredly does Heaven give ſtrength proportioned to the weight he lays upon us! Thou haſt been bowed down, my child, with every burden that ſorrow of heart, and pain of body could inflict upon a poor being; and ſtill thou telleſt me, thou art beginning to get eaſe;—thy fever gone, thy ſickneſs, the pain in thy ſide vaniſhing alſo.—May every evil ſo vaniſh that thwarts Eliza's happineſs, or but awakens thy fears for a moment! Fear nothing, my dear! Hope every thing; and the balm of this paſſion will ſhed its influence on thy health, and make thee enjoy a ſpring of youth and cheerfulneſs, more than thou haſt hardly yet taſted.

And ſo thou haſt fixed thy Bramin's portrait over thy writing deſk; and will conſult it in all doubts and difficulties.——Grateful and good girl! Yorick ſmiles contentedly over all thou doſt; his picture does not do juſtice to his own complacency.

Thy ſweet little plan and diſtribution of thy time ——how worthy of thee! Indeed, Eliza, thou leaveſt me nothing to direct thee in; thou leaveſt me nothing to require, nothing to aſk——but a continuation of that conduct which won my eſteem, and has made me thy friend for ever.

May the roſes come quick back to thy cheeks, and the rubies to thy lips! But truſt my declaration, Eliza, that thy huſband (if he is the good, feeling

man I wiſh him) will preſs thee to him with more honeſt warmth and affection, and kiſs thy pale, poor, dejected face, with more tranſport, than he would be able to do, in the beſt bloom of all thy beauty;—and ſo he ought, or I pity him. He muſt have ſtrange feelings, if he knows not the value of ſuch a creature as thou art!

I AM glad Miſs Light * goes with you. She may relieve you from many anxious moments.—I am glad your ſhipmates are friendly beings. You could leaſt diſpenſe with what is contrary to your own nature, which is ſoft and gentle, Eliza.—It would civilize ſavages.——Though pity were it thou ſhouldſt be tainted with the office: How canſt thou make apologies for thy laſt letter? 'tis moſt delicious to me for the very reaſon you excuſe it. Write to me, my child, only ſuch. Let them ſpeak the eaſy careleſſneſs of a heart that opens itſelf, any how, and every how, to a man you ought to eſteem and truſt. Such, Eliza, I write to thee,—and ſo I ſhould ever live with thee, moſt artleſsly, moſt affectionately, if providence permitted thy reſidence in the ſame ſection of the globe:—for I am, all that honour and affection can make me,

THY BRAMIN.

* Miſs Light afterwards married George Straton, Eſq. late in the ſervice of the East India Company at Madras. She is ſince dead.

LETTER LXXXIV.

TO THE SAME.

I WRITE this, Eliza, at Mr James's, whilſt he is dreſſing, and the dear girl his wife, is writing, beſide me, to thee.—I got your melancholy billet before we ſat down to dinner. 'Tis melancholy indeed, my dear, to hear ſo piteous an account of thy ſickneſs! Thou art encountered with evils enow, without that additional weight! I fear it will ſink thy poor ſoul, and body with it, paſt recovery—Heaven ſupply thee with fortitude! We have talked of nothing but thee, Eliza, and of thy ſweet virtues, and endearing conduct, all the afternoon. Mrs James and thy Bramin, have mixed their tears a hundred times, in ſpeaking of thy hardſhips, thy goodneſs, thy graces.—The * * * *'s, by heavens, are worthleſs! I have heard enough to tremble at the articulation of the name.—How could you, Eliza, leave them (or ſuffer them to leave you rather) with impreſſions the leaſt favourable? I have told thee enough, to plant diſguſt againſt their treachery to thee, to the laſt hour of thy life! yet ſtill thou toldeſt Mrs James at laſt, that thou believeſt they affectionately love thee.—Her delicacy to my Eliza, and true regard to her eaſe of mind, have ſaved thee from hearing more glaring proofs of their baſeneſs.——For GOD's ſake, write not to them; nor

foul thy fair character with ſuch polluted hearts—*Thry* love thee! What proof? Is it their actions that ſay ſo? or their zeal for thoſe attachments, which do thee honour, and make thee happy? or their tenderneſs for thy fame? No—But they *weep*, and ſay *tender things*.——Adieu to all ſuch for ever. Mrs James's honeſt heart revolts againſt the idea of ever returning them one viſit.—I honour her, and I honour thee, for almoſt every act of thy life, but this blind partiality for an unworthy being.

FORGIVE my zeal, dear girl, and allow me a right which ariſes only out of that fund of affection I have, and ſhall preſerve for thee to the hour of my death! Reflect, Eliza, what are my motives for perpetually adviſing thee? think whether I can have any, but what proceed from the cauſe I have mentioned! I think you are a very deſerving woman; and that you want nothing but firmneſs, and a better opinion of yourſelf, to be the beſt female character I know. I wiſh I could inſpire you with a ſhare of that vanity your enemies lay to your charge (though to me it has never been viſible;) becauſe I think, in a well turned mind, it will produce good effects.

I PROBABLY ſhall never ſee you more; yet I flatter myſelf you'll ſometimes think of me with pleaſure; becauſe you muſt be convinced I love you, and ſo intereſt myſelf in your rectitude, that had rather hear of any evil befalling you, than your want of reverence for yourſelf. I had not power to keep

keep this remonſtrance in my breaſt.—'Tis now out; ſo adieu. Heaven watch over my Eliza!

Thine,

YORICK.

LETTER LXXXV.

TO THE SAME.

TO whom ſhould Eliza apply in her diſtreſs, but to her friend who loves her? why then, my dear, do you apologize for her employing me? Yorick would be offended, and with reaſon, if you ever ſent commiſſions to another; which he could execute; I have been with Zumps; and your piano forte muſt be tuned from the braſs middle ſtring of your guitar, which is C——I have got you a hammer too, and a pair of pliers to twiſt your wire with; and may every one of them, my dear, vibrate ſweet comfort to my hopes! I have bought you ten handſome braſs ſcrews, to hang your neceſſaries upon: I purchaſed twelve; but ſtole a couple from you to put up in my own cabin at Coxwould—I ſhall never hang, or take my hat off one of them, but I ſhall think of you. I have bought thee, moreover, a couple of iron ſcrews, which are more to be depended on than braſs, for the globes.

I HAVE written alſo, to Mr Abraham Walker, pilot of Deal, that I had diſpatched theſe in a packet, directed to his care; which I deſired he would ſeek after,

after, the moment the Deal machine arrived. I have, moreover, given him directions, what ſort of an arm chair you would want, and have directed him to purchaſe the beſt that Deal could afford, and take it, with the parcel, in the firſt boat that went off. Would I could, Eliza, ſo ſupply all thy wants, and all thy wiſhes! It would be a ſtate of happineſs to me.—The journal is as it ſhould be——all but its contents. Poor, dear patient being! I do more than pity you; for I think I loſe both firmneſs and philoſophy, as I figure to myſelf your diſtreſſes. Do not think I ſpoke laſt night with too much aſperity of ****; there was cauſe; and beſides, a good heart ought not to love a bad one; and, indeed, cannot. But, adieu to the ungrateful ſubject.

I HAVE been this morning to ſee Mrs James—She loves thee tenderly, and unfeignedly.—She is alarmed for thee—She ſays thou lookedſt moſt ill and melancholy on going away. She pines thee. I ſhall viſit her every Sunday, while I am in town. As this may be my laſt letter, I earneſtly bid thee farewell.——May the GOD of Kindneſs be kind to thee, and approve himſelf thy protector, now thou art defenceleſs! And for thy daily comfort, bear in thy mind this truth, that whatever meaſure of ſorrow and diſtreſs is thy portion, it will be repaid to thee in a full meaſure of happineſs, by the Being thou haſt wiſely choſen for thy eternal friend.

FAREWELL, farewell, Eliza! whilſt I live, count upon me as the moſt warm and diſintereſted of earthly friends.

YORICK.

LETTER LXXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAREST ELIZA!

I BEGAN a new journal this morning; you ſhall ſee it; for if I live not till your return to England, I will leave it you as a legacy. 'Tis a ſorrowful page; but I will write cheerful ones; and could I write letters to thee, they ſhould be cheerful ones too: but few, I fear will reach thee! However, depend upon receiving ſomething of the kind by every poſt; till then, thou waveſt thy hand, and bid'ſt me write no more.

TELL me how you are; and what ſort of fortitude Heaven inſpires you with. How are you accommodated, my dear? Is all right? Scribble away, any thing, and every thing to me. Depend upon ſeeing me at Deal, with the James's, ſhould you be detained there by contrary winds.—Indeed, Eliza, I ſhould with pleaſure fly to you, could I be the means of rendering you any ſervice, or doing you kindneſs. Gracious and merciful GOD! conſider the anguiſh of a poor girl.——Strengthen and preſerve her in all the ſhocks her frame muſt be expoſed

ſed to. She is now without a protector, but thee! Save her from all accidents of a dangerous element, and give her comfort at the laſt.

My prayer, Eliza, I hope, is heard; for the ſky ſeems to ſmile upon me, as I look up to it. I am juſt returned from our dear Mrs James's, where I have been talking of thee for three hours.——She has got your picture, and likes it: but Marriot and ſome other judges, agree that mine is the better, and expreſſive of a ſweeter character—But what is that to the original? Yet I acknowledge that hers is a picture for the world, and mine is calculated only to pleaſe a very ſincere friend, or ſentimental philoſopher.—In the one you are dreſſed in ſmiles, and with all the advantages of ſilks, pearls, and ermine; ——in the other, ſimple as a veſtal——appearing the good girl nature made you;——which, to me, conveys an idea of more unaffected ſweetneſs, than Mrs Draper, habited for conqueſt, in a birth-day ſuit, with her countenance animated, and her dimples viſible.—If I remember right, Eliza, you endeavoured to collect every charm of your perſon into your face, with more than *common* care, the day you ſat for Mrs James——Your colour, too, brightened; and your eyes ſhone with more than uſual brilliancy. I then requeſted you to come ſimple and unadorned when you ſat for me—knowing (as I ſee with *unprejudiced* eyes) that you could receive no addition from the ſilk-worm's aid, or jeweller's poliſh. Let

me now tell you a truth, which, I believe, I have uttered before.—When I firſt ſaw you, I beheld you as an object of compaſſion, and as a very plain woman. The mode of your dreſs (though faſhionable, disfigured you.——But nothing now could render you ſuch, but the being ſolicitous to make yourſelf admired as a handſome one.—You are not handſome, Eliza, nor is yours a face that will pleaſe the tenth part of your beholders,——but are ſomething more; for I ſcruple not to tell you, I never ſaw ſo intelligent, ſo animated, ſo good a countenance; nor was there (nor ever will be) that man of ſenſe, tenderneſs, and feeling, in your company three hours, that was not (or will not be) your admirer, or friend, in conſequence of it; that is, if you aſſume, or aſſumed, no character foreign to your own, but appeared the artleſs being nature deſigned you for. A ſomething in your eyes, and voice, you poſſeſs in a degree more perſuaſive than any woman I ever ſaw, read, or heard of. But it is that bewitching ſort of nameleſs excellence, that men of nice ſenſibility alone can be touched with.

Were your huſband in England, I would freely give him five hundred pounds (If money could purchaſe the acquiſition) to let you only ſit by me two hours in a day, while I wrote my Sentimental Journey. I am ſure the work would ſell ſo much the better for it, that I ſhould be reimburſed the ſum more than ſeven times told.—I would not give ninepence for the picture of you the Newnhams have got executed

executed—It is the reſemblance of a conceited, made up coquette. Your eyes, and the ſhape of your face (the latter the moſt perfect oval I ever ſaw) which are perfections that muſt ſtrike the moſt indifferent judge, becauſe they are equal to any of GOD's works in a ſimilar way, and finer than any I beheld in all my travels, are manifeſtly injured by the affected leer of the one, and ſtrange appearance of the other: owing to the attitude of the head, which is a proof of the artiſt's, or your friend's falſe taſte. The * * * *'s who verify the character I once gave of teazing, or ſticking like pitch, or birdlime, ſent a card that they would wait on Mrs **** on Friday. —She ſent back, ſhe was engaged.——Then to meet at Ranelagh, to night.——She anſwered, ſhe did not go.—She ſays, if ſhe allows the leaſt footing, ſhe never ſhall get rid of the acquaintance; which ſhe is reſolved to drop at once. She knows them. She knows they are not her friends, nor yours; and the firſt uſe they would make of being with her, would be to ſacrifice you to her (if they could) a ſecond time. Let her not then; let her not, my dear, be a greater friend to thee, than thou art to thyſelf. She begs I will reiterate my requeſt to you, that you will not write to them It will give her, and thy Bramin, inexpreſſible pain. Be aſſured, all this is not without reaſon on her ſide. I have my reaſons too; the firſt of which is, that I ſhould grieve to exceſs, if Eliza wanted that fortitude ner Yorick has built ſo high upon. I ſaid I never

more would mention the name to thee; and had I not received it, as a kind of charge, from a dear woman that loves you, I ſhould not have broke my word. I will write again to-morrow to thee, thou beſt and moſt endearing of girls! A peaceful night to thee. My ſpirit will be with thee through every watch of it.

Adieu.

LETTER LXXXVII.

TO THE SAME.

I THINK you could act no otherwiſe than you did with the young ſoldier. There was no ſhutting the door againſt him, either in politeneſs or humanity. Thou telleſt me he ſeems ſuſceptible of tender impreſſions; and that before Miſs Light has ſailed a fortnight, he will be in love with her.—— Now I think it a thouſand times more likely, that he attaches himſelf to thee, Eliza: becauſe thou art a thouſand times more amiable. Five months with Eliza; and in the ſame room; and an amorous ſon of Mars beſides!—"*It can no be maſſer.*" The ſun, if he could avoid it, would not ſhine upon a dunghill; but his rays are ſo pure, Eliza, and celeſtial,——I never heard that they were polluted by it——Juſt ſuch will thine be, deareſt child, in this and every ſuch ſituation you will be expoſed to, till thou art fixed for life.—But thy diſcretion, thy wiſdom,

dom, thy honour, the ſpirit of thy Yorick, and thy own ſpirit, which is equal to it, will be thy ableſt counſellors.

SURELY, by this time, ſomething is doing for thy accommodation.—But why may not clean waſhing and rubbing do inſtead of painting your cabin, as it is to be hung? Paint is ſo pernicious, both to your nerves and lungs, and will keep you ſo much longer too, out of your apartment: where, I hope, you will paſs ſome of your happieſt hours.——

I FEAR the beſt of your ſhipmates are only genteel by compariſon with the contraſted crew, with which thou muſt behold them. So was—you know who!——from the ſame fallacy that was put upon the judgment, when——but I will not mortify you. If they are decent, and diſtant, it is enough; and as much as is to be expected. If any of them are more, I rejoice;——thou wilt want every aid; and 'tis thy due to have them. Be cautious only, my dear, of intimacies. Good hearts are open, and fall naturally into them. Heaven inſpire thine with fortitude, in this, and every deadly trial. Beſt of GOD's works, farewell! Love me, I beſeech thee; and remember me for ever!

I AM, my Eliza, and will ever be, in the moſt comprehenſive ſenſe,

Thy friend,

YORICK.

P. S. Probably you will have an opportunity of writing to me by ſome Dutch or French ſhip, or from the Cape de Verd Iſlands——it will reach me ſomehow.——

LETTER. LXXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR ELIZA!

OH! I grieve for your cabin.—And the freſh painting will be enough to deſtroy every nerve about thee. Nothing ſo pernicious as white lead. Take care of yourſelf, dear girl; and ſleep not in it too ſoon. It will be enough to give you a ſtroke of an epilepſy. I hope you will have left the ſhip; and that my letters may meet, and greet you, as you get out of your poſt-chaiſe at Deal.—When you have got them all, put them, my dear into ſome order.——The firſt eight or nine are numbered: but I wrote the reſt without that direction to thee; but thou wilt find them out, by the day or hour, which, I hope, I have generally prefixed to them. When they are got together, in chronological order ſew them together under a cover. I truſt they will be a perpetual refuge to thee, from time to time; and that thou wilt (when weary of fools, and unintereſting diſcourſe) retire, and converſe an hour with them and me.

I HAVE

I HAVE not had power, or the heart, to aim at enlivening any one of them, with a ſingle ſtroke of wit or humour; but they contain ſomething better; and, what you will feel more ſuited to your ſituation ——a long detail of much advice, truth and knowledge. I hope, too, you will perceive looſe touches of an honeſt heart, in every one of them; which ſpeaks more than the moſt ſtudied periods; and will give thee more ground of truſt and reliance upon Yorick, than all that laboured eloquence could ſupply. Lean then thy whole weight, Eliza, upon them and upon me. "May poverty, diſtreſs, an-"guiſh, and ſhame be my portion, if ever I give thee "reaſon to repent the knowledge of me!"—With this aſſeveration, made in the preſence of a juſt GOD, I pray to him, that ſo it may ſpeed with me, as I deal candidly, and honourably, with thee! I would not miſlead thee, Eliza; I would not injure thee, in the opinion of a ſingle individual, for the richeſt crown the proudeſt monarch wears.

REMEMBER, that while I have life and power, whatever is mine, you may ſtyle, and think, yours. ——Though ſorry ſhould I be, if ever my friendſhip was put to the teſt thus, for your own delicacy's ſake.—Money and counters are of equal uſe, in my opinion; they both ſerve to ſet up with.

I HOPE you will anſwer me this letter; but if thou art debarred by the elements, which hurry thee away, I will write one for thee; and knowing it is ſuch

ſuch a one as thou would'ſt have written, I will regard it as my Eliza's.

HONOUR, and happineſs, and health, and comforts of every kind, ſail along with thee, thou moſt worthy of girls! I will live for thee, and my Lydia —be rich for the dear children of my heart—gain wiſdom, gain fame, and happineſs, to ſhare with them——with thee——and her, in my old age.—Once for all, adieu.——Preſerve thy life; ſteadily purſue the ends we propoſed; and let nothing rob thee of thoſe powers Heaven has given thee for thy well-being.

WHAT can I add more, in the agitation of mind I am in, and within five minutes of the laſt poſtman's bell, but recommend thee to Heaven, and recommend myſelf to Heaven with thee, in the ſame fervent ejaculation, "that we may be happy, and meet "again; if not in this world, in the next."——Adieu—I am thine, Eliza, affectionately, and everlaſtingly.

YORICK.

LETTER LXXXIX.

TO THE SAME.

I WISH to God, Eliza, it was poſſible to poſtpone the voyage to India, for another year.—For I am firmly perſuaded within my own heart, that

that thy husband could never limit thee with regard to time.

I FEAR that Mr B——— has exaggerated matters.——I like not his countenance. It is absolutely killing—Should evil befal thee, what will he not have to answer for? I know not the being that will be deserving of so much pity, or that I shall hate more. He will be an outcast, alien——In which case I will be a father to thy children, my good girl!——therefore take no thought about them.—

BUT, Eliza, if thou art so very ill, still put off all thoughts of going to India this year.—Write to your husband—tell him the truth of your case.—If he is the generous, humane man you describe him to be, he cannot but applaud your conduct.——I am credibly informed, that his repugnance to your living in England arises only from the dread, which has entered his brain, that thou mayest run him in debt beyond thy appointments, and that he must discharge them—That such a creature should be sacrificed for the paltry consideration of a few hundreds, is too, too hard! Oh! my child! that I could, with propriety, indemnify him for every charge, even to the last mite, that thou hast been of to him! With joy would I give him my whole substance——nay, sequester my livings, and trust the treasures Heaven has furnished my head with, for a future subsistence.——

YOU owe much, I allow to your husband,——you owe something to appearances, and the opinion of

of the world; but, truſt me, my dear, you owe much likewiſe to yourſelf.—Return, therefore, from Deal, if you continue ill.—I will preſcribe for you, gratis. ——You are not the firſt woman, by many, I have done ſo for, with ſucceſs. I will ſend for my wife and daughter, and they ſhall carry you in purſuit of health, to Montpelier, the wells of Bancois, the Spa, or whether thou wilt. Thou ſhalt direct them, and make parties of pleaſure in what corner of the world fancy points out to thee. We ſhall fiſh upon the banks of Arno, and loſe ourſelves in the ſweet Labyrinths of its vallies.—And then thou ſhouldſt warble to us, as I have once or twice heard thee,—"I'm "loſt, I'm loſt"—but we ſhould find thee again, my Eliza.——Of a ſimilar nature to this, was your phyſician's preſcription: "Uſe gentle exerciſe, the pure "ſouthern air of France, or milder Naples—with the "ſociety of friendly, gentle beings." Senſible man! He certainly entered into your feelings. He knew the fallacy of medicine to a creature, whoſe ILLNESS HAS ARISEN FROM THE AFFLICTION OF HER MIND. Time only my dear, I fear you muſt truſt to, and have your reliance on; may it give you the health ſo enthuſiaſtic a votary to the charming goddeſs deſerves!

I HONOUR you Eliza, for keeping ſecret ſome things, which, if explained, had been a panegyric on yourſelf.—There is a dignity in venerable affliction, which will not allow it to appeal to the world for

pity

pity or redreſs. Well have you ſupported that character, my amiable, philſophic friend! And, indeed, I begin to think you have as many virtues as my uncle Toby's widow.—I don't mean to inſinuate, huſſey, that *my* opinion is no better founded than his was of Mrs Wadman; nor do I conceive it poſſible for any Trim to convince me it is equally fallacious.—I am ſure, while I have my reaſon, it is not.—Talking of widows—pray, Eliza, if ever you are ſuch, do not think of giving yourſelf to ſome wealthy nabob—becauſe I deſign to marry you myſelf.——My wife cannot live long—ſhe has ſold all the provinces in France already———and I know not the woman I ſhould like ſo well for her ſubſtitute as yourſelf.———'Tis true, I am ninety-five in conſtitution, and you but twenty-five———rather too great a diſparity this!———but what I want in youth, I will make up in wit and good humour.—Not Swift ſo loved his Stella, Scarron his Maintenon, or Waller his Sachariſſa, as I will love and ſing thee, my wife elect! All thoſe names, eminent as they were, ſhall give place to thine, Eliza. Tell me, in anſwer to this, that you approve and honour the propoſal, and that you would (like the Spectator's miſtreſs) have more joy in putting on an old man's ſlipper, than aſſociating with the gay, the voluptuous, and the young———Adieu, my Simplicia!

Yours,

TRISTRAM.

LET-

LETTER XC.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR ELIZA!

I HAVE been within the verge of the gates of death.—I was ill the laſt time I wrote to you, and apprehenſive of what would be the conſequence. —My fears were but too well founded; for in ten minutes after I diſpatched my letter, this poor, fine-ſpun frame of Yorick's gave way, and I broke a veſſel in my breaſt, and could not ſtop the loſs of blood till four this morning. I have filled all thy India handkerchiefs with it—It came, I think, from my heart! I fell aſleep through weakneſs. At ſix I awoke, with the boſom of my ſhirt ſteeped in tears. I dreamt I was ſitting under the canopy of Indolence, and that thou cameſt into the room, with a ſhaul in thy hand, and told me, my ſpirit had flown to thee in the Downs, with tidings of my fate; and that you were come to adminiſter what conſolation filial affection could beſtow, and to receive my parting breath and bleſſing,—With that you folded the ſhaul about my waiſt, and kneeling, ſupplicated my attention. I awoke; but in what a frame! Oh! my God! "But thou wilt number my tears, and "put them all into thy bottle."—Dear girl! I ſee thee,—thou art for ever preſent to my fancy,—embracing my feeble knees, and raiſing thy fine eyes

to

to bid me be of comfort; and when I talk to Lydia, the words of Eſau, as uttered by thee perpetually, ring in my ears——"Bleſs *me* even alſo, my fa-"ther!"——Bleſſings attend thee thou child of my heart!

My bleeding is quite ſtopped and I feel the principle of life ſtrong within me; ſo be not alarmed, Eliza——I know I ſhall do well. I have eat my breakfaſt with hunger; and I write to thee with a pleaſure ariſing from that prophetic impreſſion in my imagination, that "all will terminate to our "hearts content." Comfort thyſelf eternally with this perſuaſion, that "the beſt of beings (as thou haſt ſweetly expreſſed it) could not by a combination of accidents, produce ſuch a chain of events, merely to be the ſource of miſery to the leading perſon engaged in them." The obſervation was very applicable, very good, and very elegantly expreſſed. I wiſh my memory did juſtice to the wording of it.—Who taught you the art of writing ſo ſweetly Eliza?——You have abſolutely exalted it to a ſcience!——When I am in want of ready caſh, and ill health will not permit my genius to exert itſelf, I ſhall print your letters as finiſhed eſſays, "by an unfortunate Indian lady." The ſtyle is new; and would almoſt be a ſufficient recommendation for their ſelling well, without merit——but their ſenſe, natural eaſe, and ſpirit, is not to be equalled, I believe in this ſection of the globe; nor, I will anſwer for it, by any of your country wo-

men

men in yours—I have ſhewn your letter to Mrs B—, and to half the literati in town——You ſhall not be angry with me for it, becauſe I meant to do you honour by it.—You cannot imagine how many admirers your epiſtolary productions have gained you, that never viewed your external merits. I only wonder where thou couldſt acquire thy graces, thy goodneſs, thy accompliſhments—ſo connected! ſo educated! Nature has ſurely ſtudied to make thee her peculiar care——for thou art (and not in my eyes alone) the beſt and faireſt of all her works.—

And ſo this is the laſt letter thou art to receive from me: becauſe the Earl of Chatham * (I read in the papers) is got to the Downs; and the wind I find is fair. If ſo—bleſſed woman! take my laſt, laſt farewell!——Cheriſh the remembrance of me; think how I eſteem, nay, how affectionately I love thee, and what a price I ſet upon thee! Adieu, adieu! and with my adieu—let me give thee one ſtraight rule of conduct, that thou haſt heard from my lips in a thouſand forms—but I concenter it in one word,

REVERENCE THYSELF.

Adieu, once more Eliza! may no anguiſh of heart plant a wrinkle upon thy face, till I behold it again! May no doubts or miſgivings diſturb the ſerenity of thy mind, or awaken a painful thought about thy children—for they are Yorick's——and

Yorick

* By the Newspapers of the times, it appears that the *Earl of Chatham* East Indiaman ſailed from Deal, April 3. 1767.

Yorick is thy friend for ever!——Adieu, adieu, adieu!

P. S. Remember that hope ſhortens all journies, by ſweetening them—ſo ſing my little ſtanza on the ſubject with the devotion of an hymn, every morning when thou ariſeſt, and thou wilt eat thy breakfaſt with more comfort for it.

Bleſſings reſt, and Hygeia go with thee! May'ſt thou ſoon return, in peace and affluence to illume my night! I am, and ſhall be, the laſt to deplore thy loſs, and will be the firſt to congratulate and hail thy return.—

FARE THEE WELL!

LETTER XCI.

TO MISS STERNE.

Bond ſtreet, April 9. 1767.

THIS letter, my dear Lydia, will diſtreſs thy good heart, for from the beginning thou wilt perceive no entertaining ſtrokes of humour in it ——I cannot be cheerful when a thouſand melancholy ideas ſurround me——I have met with a loſs of near fifty pounds, which I was taken in for in an extraordinary manner—but what is that loſs in compariſon of one I may experience?——Friendſhip is the balm and cordial of life, and without it,

'tis

'tis a heavy load not worth ſuſtaining.—I am unhappy—thy mother and thyſelf at a diſtance from me, and what can compenſate for ſuch a deſtitution? ——For GOD's ſake, perſuade her to come and fix in England, for life is too ſhort to waſte in ſeparation——and whilſt ſhe lives in one country, and I in another, many people will ſuppoſe it proceeds from choice—beſides I want thee near me thou child and darling of my heart! I am in a melancholy mood, and my Lydia's eyes will ſmart with weeping, when I tell her the cauſe that now affects me.—I am apprehenſive the dear friend I mentioned in my laſt letter is going into a decline——I was with her two days ago and I never beheld a being ſo altered—— ſhe has a tender frame and looks like a drooping lily, for the roſes are fled from her cheeks—I can never ſee or talk to this incomparable woman without burſting into tears——I have a thouſand obligations to her, and I owe her more than her whole ſex, if not all the world put together——She has a delicacy in her way of thinking that few poſſeſs—our converſations are of the moſt intereſting nature, and ſhe talks to me of quitting this world, with more compoſure than others think of living in it.—I have wrote an epitaph of which I ſend thee a copy—'Tis expreſſive of her modeſt worth—but may Heaven reſtore her! and may ſhe live to write mine!

Columns and labour'd urns but vainly ſhew
An idle ſcene of decorated woe.

The

The ſweet companion, and the friend ſincere,
Need no mechanic help to force the tear.
In heart-felt numbers, never meant to ſhine,
'Twill flow eternal o'er a hearſe like thine.
'Twill flow whilſt gentle goodneſs has one friend,
Or kindred tempers have a tear to lend.

SAY all that is kind of me to thy mother, and believe me, my Lydia, that I love thee moſt truly——So adieu——I am what I ever was and hope ever ſhall be,

Thy affectionate father,

L. S.

As to Mr ——, by your deſcription he is a fat fool. I beg you will not give up your time to ſuch a being—Send me ſome *batons pour les dents*——there are none good here.

LETTER XCII.

TO LADY P.

Mount Coffee houſe, Tueſday, 3 o'clock.

THERE is a ſtrange mechanical effect produced in writing a billet-doux within a ſtone-caſt of the lady who engroſſes the heart and ſoul of an inamorato—For this cauſe (but moſtly becauſe I am to dine in this neighbourhood) have I, Triſtram Shandy,

Shandy, come forth from my lodgings to a coffee-houſe the neareſt I could find to my dear Lady ——'s houſe, and have called for a ſheet of gilt paper, to try the truth of this article of my creed—Now for it—

O MY dear lady, what a diſtrict-clout of a ſoul haſt thou made of me;—I think, by the by, this is a little too familiar an introduction for ſo unfamiliar a ſituation as I ſtand in with you——where heaven knows I am kept at a diſtance—and deſpair of getting one inch nearer you, with all the ſteps and windings I can think of to recommend myſelf to you—Would not any man in his ſenſes run diametrically from you—and as far as his legs would carry him, rather than thus cauſeleſsly, fooliſhly, and foolhardily expoſe himſelf afreſh——and afreſh, where his heart and his reaſon tells him he ſhall be ſure to come off loſer if not totally undone?—Why would you tell me you would be glad to ſee me?—Does it give you pleaſure to make me more unhappy—or does it add to your triumph, that your eyes and lips have turned a man into a fool, whom the reſt of the town is courting as a wit?—I am a fool—the weakeſt, the moſt ductile, the moſt tender fool that ever woman tried the weakneſs of—and the moſt unſettled in my purpoſes and reſolutions of recovering my right mind.——It is but an hour ago, that I kneeled down and ſwore I never would come near you—and after ſaying my Lord's Prayer for the ſake of the cloſe, *of not being led into temptation*—out I ſallied like any Chriſtian hero,

hero, ready to take the field againſt the world, the fleſh, and the devil; not doubting but I ſhould finally trample them all down under my feet—And now I am got ſo near you—within this vile ſtone's caſt of your houſe—I feel myſelf drawn into a vortex, that has turned my brain upſide downwards; and though I had purchaſed a box ticket to carry me to Miſs *******'s benefit, yet I know very well, that was a ſingle line directed to me to let me know Lady —— would be alone at ſeven, and ſuffer me to ſpend the evening with her, ſhe would infallibly ſee every thing verified I have told her.——I dine at Mr C——r's in Wigmore-ſtreet, in this neighbourhood, where I ſhall ſtay till ſeven, in hopes you purpoſe to put me to this proof. If I hear nothing by that time, I ſhall conclude you are better diſpoſed of—and ſhall take a ſorry hack, and ſorrily jog on to the play——Curſe on the word, I know nothing but ſorrow—except this one thing, that I love you (perhaps fooliſhly, but)

moſt ſincerely,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XCIII.

TO MR AND MRS J.

Old Bond-ſtreet, April 21. 1767.

I AM ſincerely affected, my dear Mr and Mrs J——, by your friendly enquiry, and the in-

tereſt you are ſo good to take in my health. God knows I am not able to give a good account of myſelf, having paſſed a bad night in much feverish agitation.—My phyſician ordered me to bed, and to keep therein till ſome favourable change—I fell ill the moment I got to my lodgings——he ſays it is owing to my taking James's Powder, and venturing out on ſo cold a day as Sunday——but he is miſtaken, for I am certain whatever bears the name muſt have efficacy with me—I was bled yeſterday, and again to-day, and have been almoſt dead; but this friendly enquiry from Gerard-ſtreet has poured balm into what blood I have left—I hope ſtill, and (next to the ſenſe of what I owe my friends (it ſhall be the laſt pleaſurable ſenſation I will part with——if I continue mending, it will yet be ſome time before I ſhall have ſtrength enough to get out in a carriage—— my firſt viſit will be a viſit of true gratitude—— I leave my kind friends to gueſs where—a thouſand bleſſings go along with this, and may Heaven preſerve you both—Adieu, my dear Sir, and dear lady.

I am your ever obliged

L. STERNE.

LET.

LETTER XCIV.

TO IGNATIUS SANCHO.

Bond-Street, Saturday [April 25.] 1767.

I WAS very ſorry, my good Sancho, that I was not at home to return my compliments by you for the great courteſy of the Duke of M——g——'s family to me, in honouring my liſt of ſubſcribers with their names——for which I bear them all thanks.——But you have ſomething to add, Sancho, to what I owe your good will alſo on this account, and that is, to ſend me the ſubſcription money, which I find a neceſſity of dunning my beſt friends for before I leave town——to avoid the perplexities of both keeping pecuniary accounts (for which I have very ſlender talents,) and collecting them (for which I have neither ſtrength of body or mind;) and ſo, good Sancho, dun the Duke of M. the Ducheſs of M. and Lord M. for their ſubſcriptions, and lay the ſin, and money with it too, at my door—I wiſh ſo good a family every bleſſing they merit, along with my humbleſt compliments. You know, Sancho, that I am your friend and well-wiſher.

L. STERNE.

P. S. I leave town on Friday morning—and ſhould on Thurſday, but that I ſtay to dine with Lord and Lady S——.

LETTER XCV.

TO THE EARL OF S——.

Old Bond-ſtreet, May 16. 1767.

MY LORD,

I WAS yeſterday taking leave of all the town, with an intention of leaving it this day, but I am detained by the kindneſs of Lord and Lady S—, who have made a party to dine and ſup on my account—I am impatient to ſet out for my ſolitude, for there the mind gains ſtrength, and learns to lean upon herſelf—In the world it ſeeks or accepts of a few treacherous ſupports——the feigned compaſſion of one—the flattery of a ſecond—the civilities of a third—the friendſhip of a fourth—they all deceive, and bring the mind back to where mine is retreating, to retirement, reflection, and books. My departure is fixed for to-morrow morning, but I could not think of quitting a place where I have received ſuch numberleſs and unmerited civilities from your lordſhip, without returning my moſt grateful thanks, as well as my hearty acknowledgments for your friendly enquiry from Bath. Illneſs, my Lord, has occaſioned my ſilence—Death knocked at my door, but I would not admit him—the call was both unexpected and unpleaſant—and I am ſeriouſly worn down to a ſhadow——and ſtill very weak;——but weak as I

as

am, I have as whimſical a ſtory to tell you as ever befel one of my family——Shandy's noſe, his name, his ſaſh-window are fools to it—it will ſerve at leaſt to amuſe you——The injury I did myſelf laſt month in catching cold upon James's powder—fell, you muſt know, upon the worſt part it could—the moſt painful and moſt dangerous of any in the human body. It was on this criſis I called in an able ſurgeon, and with him an able phyſician (both my friends) to inſpect my diſaſter——'Tis a venereal caſe cried my two ſcientific friends—'Tis impoſſible, however, to be that, replied I—for I have had no commerce whatever with the ſex, not even with my wife, added I, theſe fifteen years.——You are, however, my good friend, ſaid the ſurgeon, or there is no ſuch caſe in the world——What the devil, ſaid I, without knowing woman?—We will not reaſon about it, ſaid the phyſician, but you muſt undergo a courſe of mercury—I will loſe my life firſt, ſaid I——and truſt to nature, to time or at the worſt to death——So I put an end with ſome indignation, to the conference——and determined to bear all the torments I underwent, and ten times more, rather than ſubmit to be treated like a *ſinner* in a point where I had acted like a *ſaint*.—Now, as the father of miſchief would have it, who has no pleaſure like that of diſhonouring the righteous, it ſo fell out that from the moment I diſmiſſed my doctors, my pains began to rage with a violence not to be expreſſed, or ſupported. Every hour became more intolerable.——I was got to bed,

cried out, and raved the whole night, and was got up ſo near dead, that my friends inſiſted upon my ſending again for my phyſician and ſurgeon. I told them upon the word of a man of honour they were both miſtaken as to my caſe—but though they had reaſoned wrong, they might act right; but that, ſharp as my ſufferings were I felt them not ſo ſharp as the imputation which a venereal treatment of my caſe laid me under——They anſwered, that theſe taints of the blood laid dormant twenty years; but they would not reaſon with me in a point wherein I was ſo delicate, but would do all the office for which they were called in, namely to put an end to my torment, which otherwiſe would put an end to me——and ſo I have been compelled to ſurrender myſelf—and thus, my dear Lord, has your poor friend with all his ſenſibilities been ſuffering the chaſtiſement of the groſſeſt ſenſualiſt.—Was it not as ridiculous an embarraſſment as ever Yorick's ſpirit was involved in?——Nothing but the pureſt conſcience of innocence could have tempted me to write this ſtory to my wife, which by the by would make no bad anecdote in Triſtram Shandy's Life.——I have mentioned it in my journal to Mrs——. In ſome reſpects there is no difference between my wife and herſelf—when they fare alike, neither can reaſonably complain—I have juſt received letters from France, with ſome hints that Mrs Sterne and my Lydia are coming to England, to pay me a viſit—If your time is not better employed, Yorick flatters himſelf he ſhall receive

a letter

a letter from your lordſhip, *en attendant*, I am with the greateſt regard,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's
Moſt faithful and humble ſervant,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XCVI.

TO J. D——N. ESQ.

Old Bond-ſtreet, Friday morning.

I WAS going, my dear D——n, to bed before I received your kind enquiry, and now my chaiſe ſtands at my door, to take and convey this poor body to its legal ſettlement.——I am ill, very ill,—I languiſh moſt affectingly—I am ſick both ſoul and body ——it is a cordial to me to hear it is different with you——no man intereſts himſelf more in your happineſs, and I am glad you are in ſo fair a road to it—enjoy it long, my D. whilſt I—no matter what ——but my feelings are too nice for the world I live in—things will mend.—I dined yeſterday with Lord and Lady S—: we talked much of you and your goings on——for every one knows why Sunbury Hill is ſo pleaſant a ſituation!——You rogue! you have locked up my boots—and I go booteſs home

home—and I fear I ſhall go bootleſs all my life——Adieu, gentleſt and beſt of ſouls—adieu.

I am yours moſt affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XCVII.

TO J—— H—— S——, ESQ.

Newark, Monday ten o'clock in the morn.

MR DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE got conveyed thus far like a bale of cadaverous goods conſigned to Pluto and company——lying in the bottom of my chaiſe moſt of the route, upon a large pillow which I had the *prevoyance* to purchaſe before I ſet out——I am worn out——but preſs on to Barnby Moor to-night, and if poſſible to York the next—I know not what is the matter with me—but ſome *derangement* preſſes hard upon this machine——ſtill I think it will not be overſet this bout.—My love to G.—We ſhall all meet from the eaſt, and from the ſouth, and (as at the laſt) be happy together—My kind reſpects to a few.——I am, dear H.

Truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER XCVIII.

TO A. L——E, ESQ.

Coxwould, June 7. 1767.

DEAR L——E,

I HAD not been many days at this peaceful cottage before your letter greeted me with the ſeal of friendſhip, and moſt cordially do I thank you for ſo kind a proof of your good-will——I was truly anxious to hear of the recovery of my ſentimental friend—but I would not write to enquire after her, unleſs I could have ſent her the teſtimony without the tax, for even howd'yes to invalids, or thoſe that have lately been ſo, either call to mind what is paſt or what may return——at leaſt I find it ſo. I am as happy as a prince at Coxwould—and I wiſh you could ſee in how princely a manner I live—'tis a land of plenty. I ſit down alone to veniſon, fiſh, and wild fowl, or a couple of fowls or ducks, with curds, and ſtrawberries, and cream, and all the ſimple plenty which a rich valley (under Hamilton Hills) can produce—with a clean cloth on my table——and a bottle of wine on my right hand to drink your health. I have a hundred hens and chickens about my yard—and not a pariſhoner catches a hare, or a rabbit, or a trout, but he brings it as an offering to me. If ſolitude would

would cure a love-ſick heart, I would give you an invitation—but abſence and time leſſen no attachment which virtue inſpires. I am in high ſpirits—care never enters this cottage——I take the air every day in my poſt-chaiſe, with two long tailed horſes ——hey turn out good ones; and as to myſelf, I think I am better upon the whole for the medicines and regimen I ſubmitted to in town—May you, dear L——, want neither the one nor the other!

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XCIX.

TO THE SAME.

Coxwould, June 30. 1767.

I AM in ſtill better health, my dear L——e, than when I wrote laſt to you, owing I believe to my riding out every day with my friend H——, whoſe caſtle lies near the ſea—and there is a beech as even as a mirrour, of five miles in length before it —where we daily run races in our chaiſes, with one wheel in the ſea and the other on the land.—D—— as obtained his fair Indian, and has this poſt ſent a letter of enquiries after Yorick, and his Bramin. He is a good ſoul, and intereſts himſelf much in our fate —I cannot forgive L—e for your folly in ſaying

ing

ing you intend to get introduced to the ——. I deſpiſe them, and I ſhall hold your underſtanding much cheaper than I now do, if you perſiſt in a reſolution ſo unworthy of you.—I ſuppoſe Mrs J— telling you they were ſenſible, is the ground-work you go upon—By — they are not clever; tho' what is commonly called wit, may paſs for literature on the other ſide of Temple-bar.——You ſay Mrs J—— thinks them amiable—ſhe judges too favourably; but I have put a ſtop to her intentions of viſiting them.—They are bitter enemies of mine, and I am even with them. La Bramin aſſured me they uſed their endeavours with her to break off her friendſhip with me, for reaſons I will not write, but tell you.—I ſaid enough of them before ſhe left England, and though ſhe yielded to me in every other point, yet in this ſhe obſtinately perſiſted.—Strange infatuation!—but I think I have effected my purpoſe by a falſity, which Yorick's friendſhip to the Bramin can only juſtify.——I wrote her word that the moſt amiable of women reiterated my requeſt, that ſhe would not write to them. I ſaid too, ſhe had concealed many things for the ſake of her peace of mind——when in fact, L——e, this was merely a child of my own brain, Mrs J——'s by adoption, to enforce the argument I had before urged ſo ſtrongly.—Do not mention this circumſtance to Mrs J——, 'twould diſpleaſe her——and I had no deſign

ſign in it but for the Bramin to be a friend to herſelf.—I ought now to be buſy from ſun-riſe to ſun-ſet, for I have a book to write—a wife to receive—an eſtate to ſell—a pariſh to ſuperintend, and, what is worſt of all, a diſquieted heart to reaſon with—theſe are continual calls upon me.—I have received half a dozen letters to preſs me to join my friends at Scarborough, but I am at preſent deaf to them all——I perhaps may paſs a few days there ſomething later in the ſeaſon, not at preſent—and ſo dear L—e, adieu.

I am moſt cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER C.

TO IGNATIUS SANCHO.

Coxwould, June 30: [1767.]

I MUST acknowledge the courteſy of my good friend Sancho's letter, were I ten times buſier than I am, and muſt thank him too for the many expreſſions of his good will, and good opinion—'Tis all affectation to ſay a man is not gratified with being praiſed—we only want it to be ſincere——and then it will be taken, Sancho, as kindly as yours. I left town very poorly—and with an idea I was taking leave of it for ever——but good air, a quiet retreat and

and quiet reflections along with it, with an ass to milk, and another to ride upon (if I choose it,) all together do wonders.—I shall live this year at least, I hope, be it but to give the world, before I quit it, as good impressions of me, as you have, Sancho. I would only covenant for just so much health and spirits, as are sufficient to carry my pen through the task I have set it this summer.—But I am a resigned being, Sancho, and take health and sickness, as I do light and darkness, or the vicissitudes of seasons——that is, just as it pleases GOD to send them—and accommodate myself to their periodical returns as well as I can——only taking care, whatever befals me in this silly world—not to lose my temper at it.——This I believe, friend Sancho, to be the truest philosophy—for this we must be indebted to ourselves, but not to our fortunes.—Farewell——I hope you will not forget your custom of giving me a call at my lodgings next winter——In the mean time, I am very cordially,

My honest friend Sancho,
Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CI.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

Coxwould, July 6. 1767.

IT is with as much true gratitude as ever heart felt, that I ſit down to thank my dear friends Mr and Mrs J—— for the continuation of their attention to me;—but for this laſt inſtance of their humanity and politeneſs to me, I muſt ever be their debtor——I never can thank you enough, my dear friends, and yet I thank you from my ſoul——and for the ſingle day's happineſs your goodneſs would have ſent me, I wiſh I could ſend you back thouſands—I cannot, but they will come of themſelves—and ſo God bleſs you.——I have had twenty times my pen in my hand ſince I came down, to write a letter to you both in Gerrard-ſtreet,—but I am a ſhy kind of a ſoul at the bottom, and have a jealouſy about troubling my friends, eſpecially about myſelf.—I am now got perfectly well, but was, a month after my arrival in the country, in but a poor ſtate——my body has got the ſtart, and is at preſent more at eaſe than my mind—but this world is a ſchool of trials, and ſo Heaven's will be done!—I hope you have both enjoyed all that I have wanted—and to complete your joy, that your little lady flouriſhes like a vine at your table, to which I hope to ſee her preferred

ferred by next winter.—I am now beginning to be truly buſy at my Sentimental Journey—the pains and ſorrows of this life having retarded its progreſs —but I ſhall make up my lee-way, and overtake every body in a very ſhort time.

WHAT can I ſend you that Yorkſhire produces? tell me—I want to be of uſe to you, for I am, my dear friends, with the trueſt value and eſteem,

Your very obliged,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CII.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

York, July 20. 1767.

MY DEAR PANCHAUD,

BE ſo kind as to forward what letters are arrived for Mrs Sterne at your office by to-day's poſt, or the next, and ſhe will receive them before ſhe quits Avignon for England——She wants to lay out a little money in an annuity for her daughter—adviſe her to get her own life inſured in London, leſt my Lydia ſhould die before her—If there are any packets, ſend them with the ninth volume * of Shandy, which ſhe has failed of getting—ſhe ſays ſhe has drawn for fifty louis——when ſhe leaves Paris, ſend by her my account—Have you got me any French ſubſcriptions, or ſubſcriptions, in France?

* Alluding to the firſt edition.

—Preſent my kindeſt ſervice to Miſs P. I know her politeneſs and good-nature will incline her to give Mrs J. her advice about what ſhe may venture to bring over.—I hope every thing goes on well, though never half ſo well as I wiſh——God proſper you, my dear friend——Believe me moſt warmly

Yours,

L. STERNE.

THE ſooner you ſend me the gold ſnuff-box, the better,—'tis a preſent from my beſt friend.

LETTER CIII.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

Coxwould, Auguſt 2. 1767.

MY dear friends Mr and Mrs J—are infinitely kind to me, intending now and then a letter to enquire after me—and to acquaint me how they are. ——You cannot conceive, my dear lady, how truly I bear a part in your illneſs.—I wiſh Mr J—— would carry you to the ſouth of France in purſuit of health—but why need I wiſh it, when I know his affection will make him do that and ten times as much to prevent a return of thoſe ſymptoms which alarmed him ſo much in the ſpring—Your politeneſs and humanity are always contriving to treat me agreeably, and what you promiſe next winter, will be perfectly

—ſo

ſo—but you muſt get well——and your little dear girl muſt be of the party, with her parents and friends, to give it a reliſh—I am ſure you ſhew no partiality, but what is natural and praiſe-worthy in behalf of your daughter, but I wonder my friends will not find her a play-fellow; and I both hope and adviſe them not to venture along through this warfare of life without two ſtrings at leaſt to their bow.—I had letters from France by laſt night's poſt, by which (by ſome fatality) I find not one of my letters has reached Mrs Sterne. This gives me concern, as it wears the aſpect of unkindneſs, which ſhe by no means merits from me.——My wife and dear girl are coming to pay me a viſit for a few months:——I wiſh I may prevail with them to tarry longer.—You muſt permit me, dear Mrs J. to make my Lydia known to you, if I can prevail with my wife to come and ſpend a little time in London, as ſhe returns to France. I expect a ſmall parcel—may I trouble you, before you write next, to ſend to my lodgings to aſk if there is any thing directed to me that you can incloſe under cover.——I have but one excuſe for this freedom, which I am prompted to uſe, from a perſuaſion that it is doing you pleaſure to give you an opportunity of doing an obliging thing——and as to myſelf, I reſt ſatisfied, for 'tis only ſcoring up another debt of thanks to the millions I owe you both already——Receive a thouſand and a thouſand thanks, yes, and with them ten thouſand friendly wiſhes for all you wiſh in this world——

May my friend Mr J. continue bleſſed with good health, and may his good lady get perfectly well, there being no woman's health or comfort I ſo ardently pray for.—Adieu, my dear friends—believe me moſt truly and faithfully yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S. In Eliza's laſt Letter, dated from St Jago, ſhe tells me, as ſhe does you, that ſhe is extremely ill——God protect her!——By this time ſurely ſhe has ſet foot upon dry land at Madras—I heartily wiſh her well, and if Yorick was with her, he would tell her ſo——but he is cut off from this by bodily abſence——I am at preſent with her in ſpirit, however——but what is that? you will ſay,

LETTER CIV.

TO J—— H——S, ESQ.

Coxwould, Auguſt, 11. 1767.

MY DEAR H.

I AM glad all has paſſed with ſo much amity *inter te & filium Marcum tuum.* and that Madame has found grace in thy ſight—All is well that ends well—and ſo much for moralizing upon it. I wiſh you could, or would, take up your parable, and propheſy as much good concerning me and my affairs. ——Not one of my letters has got to Mrs Sterne ſince

ſince the notification of her intentions, which has a pitiful air on my ſide, though I have wrote her ſix or ſeven.—I imagine ſhe will be here the latter end of September, though I have no date for it, but her impatience, which, having ſuffered by my ſuppoſed ſilence, I am perſuaded will make her fear the worſt ——if that is the caſe, ſhe will fly to England——a moſt natural concluſion.——You did well to diſcontinue all commerce with James's powders——as you are ſo well, rejoice therefore, and let your heart be merry——mine ought upon the ſame ſcore——for I never have been ſo well ſince I left college——and ſhould be a marvellous happy man, but for ſome reflections which bow down my ſpirits——but if I live but even three or four years, I will acquit myſelf with honour——and——no matter! we will talk this over when we meet.—If all ends as temperately as with you, and that I find grace, &c. &c. I will come and ſing Te Deum, or drink *poculum elevatum*, or do any thing with you in the world.—I ſhould depend upon G——'s critic upon my head, as much as Moliere's old woman upon his comedies——when you do not want her ſociety, let it be carried into your bed-chamber to ſlay her, or clap it upon her bum——to——and give her my bleſſing as you do it.——

My poſtillion has ſet me a-ground for a week, by one of my piſtols burſting in his hand, which he taking for granted to be quite ſhot off—he inſtantly fell upon his knees and ſaid (Our father, which art

in Heaven, hallowed be thy name) at which, like a good Chriſtian, he ſtopped, not remembering any more of it—the affair was not ſo bad as he at firſt thought, for it has only *burſten* two of his fingers (he ſays.)——I long to return to you, but I ſit here alone as ſolitary and ſad as a tom cat, which by the by is all the company I keep——he follows me from the parlour, to the kitchen, into the garden, and every place——I wiſh I had a dog—my daughter will bring me one—and ſo God be about you, and ſtrengthen your faith—I am affectionately, dear couſin, yours,

L. S.

My ſervice to the C——, though they are from home—and to Panty.

LETTER CV.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

Coxwould, Auguſt 13. 1767.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I BUT copy your great civility to me in writing you word, that I have this moment received another letter wrote eighteen days after the date of the laſt from St Jago—If our poor friend could have wrote another letter to England, you would in courſe have had it——but I fear, from the circumſtance of great

great hurry and bodily diſorder in which ſhe was when ſhe diſpatched this, ſhe might not have time.—In caſe it has ſo fallen out, I ſend you the contents of what I have received—and that is a melancholy hiſtory of herſelf and ſufferings ſince they left St Jago—continual and moſt violent rheumatiſm all the time—a fever brought on with fits, and attended with delirium, and every terrifying ſymptom——the recovery from this left her low and emaciated to a ſkeleton.—I give you the pain of this detail with a bleeding heart, knowing how much at the ſame time it will affect yours.—The three or four laſt days of her journal leave us with hopes ſhe will do well at laſt, for ſhe is more cheerful——and ſeems to be getting into better ſpirits; and health will follow in courſe. They have croſſed the line—are much becalmed, by which with other delays, thé fears they will loſe their paſſage to Madras——and be ſome months ſooner for it at Bombay—Heaven protect her, for ſhe ſuffers much, and with uncommon fortitude.—She writes much to be about her dear friend Mrs J—in her laſt packet.——In truth, my good lady, ſhe loves and h nours you from her heart: but, if ſhe did not, I ſhould not eſteem her, or wiſh her ſo well as I do.——Adieu, my dear friends—you have few in the world more truly and cordially

Yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S.

P. S. I have juſt received, as a preſent from a man I ſhall ever love, a moſt elegant gold ſnuff box, fabricated for me at Paris—'tis not the firſt pledge I have received of his friendſhip.—May I preſume to incloſe you a letter of chit chat which I ſhall write to Eliza? I know you will write yourſelf, and my letter may have the honour to *chaperon* yours to India——they will neither of them be the worſe received for going together in company, but I fear they will get late in the year to their deſtined port, as they go firſt to Bengal.

LETTER CVI.

TO MISS STERNE.

Coxwould, Auguſt 24. 1767.

I AM truly ſurpriſed, my dear Lydia, that my laſt letter has not reached thy mother, and thyſelf—it looks moſt unkind on my part, after you having wrote me word of your mother's intention of coming to England, that ſhe has not received my letter to welcome you both—And though in that I ſaid I wiſhed you would defer your journey till March, for before that time I ſhould have publiſhed my ſentimental work, and ſhould be in town to receive you—yet I will ſhew you more real politeſſes than any you have met with in France, as mine will come warm from the heart—I am ſorry you are not here

at

at the races, but *les fetes champetres* of the Marquis de Sade have made you amends.—I know B—— very well; and he is what in France would be called admirable——that would be but ſo ſo here——You are right——He ſtudies nature more than any, or rather moſt of the French comedians——If the Empreſs of Ruſſia pays him and his wife a penſion of twenty thouſand livres a year, I think he is very well off.—The folly of ſtaying till after twelve for ſupper——that you two excommunicated beings might have meat!—"his conſcience would not let "it be ſerved before."——Surely the Marquis thought, you both being Engliſh, could not be ſatisfied without it.—I would have given, not my gown and caſſock (for I have but one,) but my topaz ring, to have ſeen the *petits maitres et maitreſſes* go to maſs, after having ſpent the night in dancing. As to my pleaſures, they are few in compaſs.——My poor cat ſits purring beſide me—Your lively French dog ſhall have his place on the other ſide of my fire——but if he is as deviliſh as when I laſt ſaw him, I muſt tutor him; for I will not have my cat abuſed—in ſhort, I will have nothing deviliſh about me——a combuſtion will ſpoil a ſentimental thought.

ANOTHER thing I muſt deſire—do not be alarmed—'tis to throw all your rouge pots into the Sorgue before you ſet out—I will have no rouge put on in England—and do not bewail them as——did her ſilver ſyringe or gliſter equipage, which ſhe loſt in a certain river—but take a wiſe

reſolution of doing without rouge,—I have been three days ago bad again—with a ſpitting of blood—and that unfeeling brute * * * * * * * came and drew my curtains, and, with a voice like a trumpet, halloo'd in my ear—Z—ds, what a fine kettle of fiſh have you brought yourſelf to, Mr S——! In a faint voice, I bad him leave me, for comfort ſure was never adminiſtered in ſo rough a manner.—Tell your mother, I hope ſhe will purchaſe what either of you may want at Paris——'tis an occaſion not to be loſt—ſo write to me from Paris, that I may come and meet you in my poſt-chaiſe with my long tailed horſes——and the moment you have both put your feet in it, call it hereafter yours.—Adieu, dear Lydia—believe me, what I ever ſhall be,

Your affectionate father,

L. STERNE.

I THINK I ſhall not write to Avignon any more but you will find one for you at Paris—Once more adieu.

LET.

LETTER CVII.

TO SIR W.

September 19. 1767.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU are perhaps the drolleſt being in the univerſe——Why do you banter me ſo about what I wrote to you?—Tho' I told you every morning I jump'd into Venus's lap (meaning thereby the ſea) was you to infer from that, I leaped into the ladies beds afterwards?—The body guides you—the mind me.——I have wrote the moſt whimſical letter to a lady that was ever read, and talked of body and ſoul too——I ſaid ſhe had made me vain, by ſaying ſhe was mine more than ever woman was——but ſhe is not the lady of Bond-ſtreet, nor——ſquare, nor the lady who ſupped with me in Bond-ſtreet on ſcollopp'd oyſters, and other ſuch things—nor did ſhe ever go *tete-a-tete* with me to Salt-Hill.—Enough of ſuch nonſenſe——The paſt is over——and I can juſtify unto myſelf—can you do as much?——No, faith!——"You can feel!" Aye, ſo can my cat, when he hears a female caterwauling on the houſe top——but caterwauling diſguſts me. I had rather raiſe a gentle flame, than have a different one raiſed in me.—Now, I take heaven to witneſs after all this *badinage*, my heart

is

is innocent—and the ſporting of my pen is equal, juſt equal, to what I did in my boyiſh days, when I got aſtride of a ſtick, and gallop'd away—The truth is this——that my pen governs me, not me my pen. You are much to blame if you dig for marle, unleſs you are ſure of it. I was once ſuch a puppy myſelf, as to pare, and burn, and had my labour for my pains, and two hundred pounds out of pocket. Curſe on farming (ſaid I,) I will try if the pen will not ſucceed better than the ſpade. The following up of that affair (I mean farming) made me loſe my temper; and a cart-load of turnips was (I thought) very dear at two hundred pounds.

In all your operations may your own good ſenſe guide you—bought experience is the devil.—Adieu, adieu!—Believe me

Yours moſt truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Coxwould, Sept. 27. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

YOU are arrived at Scarborough when all the world has left it——but you are an unaccountable being, and ſo there is nothing more to be ſaid on the matter—You wiſh me to come to Scarborough

rough, and join you to read a work that is not yet finiſhed—beſides, I have other things in my head. ——My wife will be here in three or four days, and I muſt not be found ſtraying in the wilderneſs—but I have been there. As for meeting you at Bluit's, with all my heart——I will laugh and drink my barley water with you. As ſoon as I have greeted my wife and daughter, and hired them a houſe at York, I ſhall go to London, where you generally are in Spring——and then my Sentimental Journey will, I dare ſay, convince you that my feelings are from the heart, and that that heart is not of the worſt of moulds.—Praiſed be God for my ſenſibility! Though it has often made me wretched, yet I would not exchange it for all the pleaſures the groſſeſt ſenſualiſt ever felt. Write to me the day you will be at York—'tis ten to one but I may introduce you to my wife and daughter. Believe me, my good Sir,

Ever yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CIX.

TO MR PANCHAUD, AT PARIS.

York, October 1. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE order'd my friend Becket to advance for two months your account which my wife this day

day deliver'd—ſhe is in raptures with all your civilities.——This is to give you notice to draw upon your correſpodent—and Becket will deduct out of my publication.—To-morrow morning I repair with her to Coxwould, and my Lydia ſeems tranſported with the ſight of me.—Nature, dear P——, breathes in all her compoſition; and except a little vivacity—which is a fault in the world we live in—I am fully content with her mother's care of her.—Pardon this digreſſion from buſineſs—but 'tis natural to ſpeak of thoſe we love.—As to the ſubſcriptions which your friendſhip has procured me, I muſt have them to incorporate with my liſts which are to be prefix'd to the firſt volume.—My wife and daughter join in millions of thanks—they will leave me the firſt of December,——Adieu, adieu!——Believe me

Yours, moſt truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CX.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

Coxwould, October 3. 1767.

I HAVE ſuffered under a ſtrong deſire for above this fortnight, to ſend a letter of enquiries after the health and the well-being of my dear friends, Mr and Mrs J——; and I do aſſure you both, 'twas merely owing to a little modeſty in my temper

ton

not to make my good will troubleſome, where I have ſo much, and to thoſe I never think of, but with ideas of ſenſibility and obligation, that I have refrain'd.—Good God! to think I could be in town, and not go the firſt ſtep I made to Gerrard-ſtreet!—My mind and body muſt be at ſad variance with each other, ſhould it ever fall out that it is not both the firſt and laſt place alſo where I ſhall betake myſelf, were it only to ſay, "God bleſs you"——May you have every bleſſing he can ſend you!—'tis a part of my litany, where you will always have a place whilſt I have a tongue to repeat it—And ſo you heard I had left Scarborough, which you would no more credit, than the reaſons aſſign'd for it—I thank you for it kindly—though you have not told me what they were: being a ſhrewd divine, I think I can gueſs.——I was ten days at Scarborough in September, and was hoſpitably entertained by one of the beſt of our Biſhops; who, as he kept houſe there, preſs'd me to be with him—and his houſehold conſiſted of a gentleman and two ladies——which, with the good Biſhop and myſelf, made ſo good a party that we kept much to ourſelves.—I made in this time a connection of great friendſhip with my mitred hoſt, who would gladly have taken me with him back to Ireland.—However, we all left Scarborough together, and lay fifteen miles off, where we kindly parted——Now it was ſuppoſed (and I have ſince heard) that I e'en went on with the party to London, and this I ſuppoſe was the reaſon aſ-

ſign'd

ſign'd for my being there.—I dare ſay charity would add a little to the account, and give out that 'twas on the ſcore of one, and perhaps both of the ladies —and I will excuſe charity on that head for a heart diſengaged could not well have done better.—I have been hard writing ever ſince—and hope by Chriſtmas I ſhall be able to give a gentle rap at your door ——and tell you how happy I am to ſee my two good friends.——I aſſure you I ſpur on my Pegaſus more violently upon that account, and am now determined not to draw bit, till I have finiſhed this Sentimental Journey——which I hope to lay at your feet, as a ſmall (but a very honeſt) teſtimony of the conſtant truth with which I am,

My dear friends,

Your ever obliged

And grateful

L. STERNE.

P. S. My wife and daughter arrived here laſt night from France.—My girl has return'd an elegant accompliſh'd little ſlut—my wife—but I hate to praiſe my wife—'tis as much as decency will allow to praiſe my daughter.—I ſuppoſe they will return next ſummer to France. They leave me in a month to reſide at York for the winter——and I ſtay at Coxwould till the firſt of January.

LET-

LETTER CXI.

TO MRS F——,

Coxwould, Friday.

DEAR MADAM,

I RETURN you a thouſand thanks for your obliging enquiry after me——I got down laſt ſummer very much worn out—and much worſe at the end of my journey—I was forced to call at his Grace's houſe (the Archbiſhop of York) to refreſh myſelf a couple of days upon the road near Doncaſter——Since I got home to quietneſs, and temperance, and good books, and good hours, I have mended—and am now very ſtout—and in a fortnight's time ſhall perhaps be as well as you yourſelf could wiſh me.—I have the pleaſure to acquaint you that my wife and daughter are arrived from France—I ſhall be in town to greet my friends by the firſt of January—Adieu, dear madam—Believe me

Yours ſincerely,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER CXII,

TO MRS H.

Coxwould, October 12. 1767.

EVER ſince my dear H. wrote me word ſhe was mine, more than ever woman was, I have been racking my memory to inform me where it was that you and I had that affair together——People think that I have had many, ſome in body, ſome in mind; but as I told you before, you have had me more than any woman—therefore you muſt have had me, H——, both in mind, and in body.—Now I cannot recollect where it was, nor exactly when—— it could not be the lady in Bond-ſtreet, or Groſvenor-ſtreet, or——Square, or Pall-mall.—We ſhall make it out, H. when we meet—I impatiently long for it—'tis no matter——I cannot now ſtand writing to you to day——I will make it up next poſt—for dinner is upon table, and if I make Lord F—— ſtay, he will not frank this.——How do you do? Which parts of Triſtram do you like beſt?——God bleſs you.

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER CXIII.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

Coxwould, Nov. 12. 1767.

FORGIVE me, dear Mrs J——, if I am troubleſome in writing ſomething betwixt a letter and a card, to enquire after you and my good friend Mr J——, whom 'tis an age ſince I have heard a ſyllable of.—I think ſo, however, and never more felt the want of a houſe I eſteem ſo much, as I do now when I can hear tidings of it ſo ſeldom—and have nothing to recompenſe my deſires of ſeeing its kind poſſeſſors, but the hopes before me of doing it by Chriſtmas.——I long ſadly to ſee you—and my friend Mr J——. I am ſtill at Coxwould—my wife and girl * here.—She is a dear good creature—affectionate, and moſt elegant in body and mind——ſhe is all heaven could give me in a daughter——but like other bleſſings, not given, but lent; for her mother loves France——and this dear part of me muſt be torn from my arms to follow her mother, who ſeems inclined to eſtabliſh her in France, where

* Mrs Medalle thinks an apology may be neccessary for publishing this letter----the best she can offer is-----that it was written by a fond parent (whose commendation she is proud of) to a very sincere friend.

where ſhe has had many advantageous offers.—— Do not ſmile at my weakneſs, when I ſay I don't wonder at it, for ſhe is as accompliſh'd a ſlut as France can produce.—You ſhall excuſe all this—if you won't, I deſire Mr J—— to be my advocate—but I know I don't want one.—With what pleaſure ſhall I embrace your dear little pledge—— whom I hope to ſee every hour increaſing in ſtature, and in favour, both with GOD and man!——I kiſs all your hands with a moſt devout and friendly heart. —No man can wiſh you more good than your meagre friend does—few ſo much; for I am with infinite cordiality, gratitude, and honeſt affection,

My dear Mrs J——,

Your ever faithful,

L. STERNE.

P. S. My Sentimental Journey will pleaſe Mrs J——, and my Lydia—I can anſwer for thoſe two. It is a ſubject which works well, and ſuits the frame of mind I have been in for ſome time paſt.—I told you my deſign in it was to teach us to love the world and our fellow-creatures better than we do—ſo it runs moſt upon thoſe gentler paſſions and affections, which aid ſo much to it. Adieu, and may you and my worthy friend Mr J—— continue examples of the doctrine I teach!

LET-

LETTER CXIV.

TO MRS H.

Coxwould, Nov. 15. 1767.

NOW be a good dear woman, my H——, and execute theſe commiſſions well——and when I ſee you I will give you a kiſs——there's for you! —But I have ſomething elſe for you which I am fabricating at a great rate, and that is my Sentimental Journey, which ſhall make you cry as much as it has affected me—or I will give up the buſineſs of ſentimental writing—and write to the body—that is, H. what I am doing in writing to you——but you are a *good body*, which is worth half a ſcore mean ſouls.—

I am yours, &c. &c.

L. SHANDY.

LETTER CXV.

TO A. L—E, ESQ.

Coxwould, Nov. 19. 1767.

YOU make yourſelf unhappy, dear L—e, by imaginary ills——which you might ſhun, inſtead of putting yourſelf in the way of.——Would

not

not any man in his ſenſes fly from the object he adores, and not waſte his time and his health in increaſing his miſery by ſo vain a purſuit?—The ido of your heart is one of ten thouſand.—The Duke of —— has long ſighed in vain—and can you ſuppoſe a woman will liſten to you that is proof againſt titles, ſtars, and red ribands?—Her heart (believe me, L—e) will not be taken in by fine men, or fine ſpeeches—if it ſhould ever feel a preference, it will chooſe an object for itſelf, and it muſt be a ſingular character that can make an impreſſion on ſuch a being——ſhe has a platonic way of thinking, and knows love only by name—the natural reſerve of her character, which you complain of, proceeds not from pride, but from a ſuperiority of underſtanding, which makes her deſpiſe every man that turns himſelf into a fool—Take my advice, and pay your addreſſes to Miſs ——; ſhe eſteems you, and time will wear off an attachment which has taken ſo deep a root in your heart.—I pity you from my ſoul—but we are all born with paſſions which ebb and flow (elſe they would play the devil with us) to different objects—and the beſt advice I can give you L—e, is to turn the tide of yours another way.—I know not whether I ſhall write again while I ſtay at Coxwould.—I am in earneſt at my ſentimental work—and intend being in town ſoon after Chriſtmas—in

the

the mean time adieu.—Let me hear from you, and believe me, dear L.

Yours, &c.

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXVI.

TO THE EARL OF ——.

Coxwould, November, 28. 1767.

MY LORD,

'TIS with the greateſt pleaſure I take my pen to thank your Lordſhip for your letter of enquiry about Yorick—he has worn out both his ſpirits and body with the Sentimental Journey—'tis true that an author muſt feel himſelf, or his reader will not—but I have torn my whole frame into pieces by my feelings——I believe the brain ſtands as much in need of recruiting as the body—— therefore I ſhall ſet out for town the twentieth of next month, after having recruited myſelf a week at York. I might indeed ſolace myſelf with my wife (who is come from France;) but in fact I have long been a ſentimental being—whatever your Lordſhip may think to the contrary. The world has imagined, becauſe I wrote Triſtram Shandy, that I was myſelf more Shandean than I really ever was—'tis a good-natured world we live in, and we are often painted in divers colours, according to the ideas one

frames in his head.——A very agreeable lady arrived three years ago at York, in her road to Scarborough——I had the honour of being acquainted with her, and was her *chaperon*—all the females were very inquiſitive to know who ſhe was —" do not tell, ladies; 'tis a miſtreſs my wife has recommended to me —— nay moreover has ſent her from France."

I HOPE my book will pleaſe you, my Lord, and then my labour will not be totally in vain. If it is not thought a chaſte book, mercy on them that read it, for they muſt have warm imaginations indeed! ——Can your Lordſhip forgive my not making this a longer epiſtle?—In ſhort, I can but add this, which you already know——that I am with gratitude and friendſhip,

My Lord,

Your obedient faithful,

L. STERNE.

IF your Lordſhip is in town in Spring, I ſhould be happy if you became acquainted with my friends in Gerrard-Street—you would eſteem the huſband, and honour the wife——ſhe is the reverſe of moſt of her ſex——they have various purſuits—ſhe has but one—that of pleaſing her huſband.

LET-

LETTER CXVII.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR G. M.

Coxwould, December 3. 1767.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

FOR though you are his Excellency, and I ſtill but parſon Yorick—I ſtill muſt call you ſo—and were you to be the next Emperor of Ruſſia, I could not write to you, or ſpeak of you under any other relation—I felicitate you, I don't ſay how much, becauſe I can't—I always had ſomething like a kind of revelation within me, which pointed out this tract for you, in which you are ſo happily advanced——it was not only my wiſhes for you, which were ever ardent enough to impoſe upon a viſionary brain, but I thought I actually ſaw you juſt where you now are—and that is juſt, my dear Macartney, where you ſhould be.——I ſhould long, long ago have acknowledged the kindneſs of a letter of yours from Peterſbourg; but hearing daily accounts you was leaving it——this is the firſt time I knew well *where* my thanks would find you——how they will find you, I know well——that is—the ſame I ever knew you. In three weeks I ſhall kiſs your hand——and ſooner, if I can finiſh my Sentimental Journey.—The deuce take all ſentiments! I wiſh there was not one in the world!

——My wife is come to pay the ſentimental viſit as far as from ſuch a proof of her urbanity, has robb'd me of a month's writing, or I had been in town now. —I am going to ly-in; being at Chriſtmas at my full reckoning—and unleſs what I ſhall bring forth is not *preſs'd* to death by theſe devils of printers, I ſhall have the honour of preſenting to you a *couple of as clean brats* as ever chaſte brain conceived—they are frolickſome too—*mais cela n'emb*ête—I put your name down with many wrong and right *honourables*, knowing you would take it not well, if I did not make myſelf happy with it. Adieu, my dear friend.

Believe me yours, &c.

L. STERNE.

P. S. If you ſee Mr Crawford, tell him I greet him kindly.

LETTER CXVIII.

TO A. L——E, ESQ.

Coxwould, December 7. 1767.

DEAR L.

I SAID I would not perhaps write any more, but it would be unkind not to reply to ſo intereſting a letter as yours—I am certain you may depend upon

on Lord ——'s promiſes—he will take care of you in the beſt manner he can; and your knowledge of the world, and of languages in particular, will make you uſeful in any department——If his Lordſhip's ſcheme does not ſucceed, leave the kingdom——go to the eaſt, or the weſt, for travelling would be of infinite ſervice to both your body and mind—But more of this when we meet——now to my own affairs.——I have had an offer of exchanging two pieces of preferment I hold here, for a living of three hundred and fifty pounds a year in Surry, about thirty miles from London, and retaining Coxwould, and my prebendaryſhip——the country alſo is ſweet——but I will not, cannot come to any determination, till I have conſulted with you, and my other friends.—I have great offers too in Ireland——the biſhops of C —— and R—— are both my friends——but I have rejected every propoſal, unleſs Mrs S—— and my Lydia could accompany me thither—I live for the ſake of my girl, and with her ſweet light burthen in my arms, I could get up faſt the hill of preferment, if I choſe it ——but without my Lydia, if a mitre was offered me, it would ſit uneaſy upon my brow.—Mrs S——'s health is inſupportable in England.—She muſt return to France, and juſtice and humanity forbid me to oppoſe it.——I will allow her enough to live comfortably, untill ſhe can rejoin me.—My heart bleeds, L——e, when I think of parting with my child—'twill be like the ſeparation of ſoul and body——and equal to nothing but what paſſes a

that tremendous moment: and like it in one reſpect, for ſhe will be in one kingdom, whilſt I am in another.—You will laugh at my weakneſs——but I cannot help it—for ſhe is a dear intereſted girl—— As a proof of it—when ſhe left Coxwould, and I bad her adieu, I pulled out my purſe and offered her ten guineas for her private pleaſures—her anſwer was pretty, and affected me too much: "No, my dear papa, our expences of coming from France may have ſtraitened you—I would rather put an hundred guineas in your pocket than take ten out of it."—I burſt into tears—But why do I practiſe on your feelings——by dwelling on a ſubject that will touch your heart?——It is too much melted already by its own ſufferings, I.—e, for me to add a pang, or cauſe a ſingle ſigh.—God bleſs you—I ſhall hope to greet you by New-year's-day in perfect health ——Adieu, my dear friend—I am muſt truly and cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXIX.

TO J—— H—— S——, ESQ.

[December, 1767.]

LITERAS veſtras lepidiſſimas, mi conſobrine, conſobrinis meis omnibus carior, accepi die Veneris! ſed poſta non rediebat verſus Aquilonem

eo

eo die, aliter ſcripſiſſem prout deſiderabas. Neſcio quid eſt materia cum me, ſed ſum fatigatus & ægrotus de mea uxore plus quam unquam——& ſum poſſeſſus cum diabolo qui pellet me in urbem—& tu es poſſeſſus cum eodem malo ſpiritu qui te tenet ni deſerto eſſe tentatum ancillis tuis, et perturbatum uxore tua—crede mihi, mi Antoni, quod iſthæc non eſt via ad ſalutem ſive hodiernam, ſive eternam; num tu incipis cogitare de pecunia, quæ, ut ait Sanctus Paulus, eſt radix omnium malorum, & non ſatis dicis in corde tuo, ego Antonius de Caſtello Infirmo, ſum jam quadraginta & plus annos natus, & explevi octavum meum luſtrum, et tempus eſt me curare, & meipſum Antonium facere hominem felicem & liberum, et mihimet ipſi benefacere, ut exhortatur Solomon, qui dicit quod nihil eſt melius in hac vita, quam quod homo vivat feſtive, & quod edat et bibat, & bono fruatur, quia hoc eſt ſua portio & dos in hoc mundo.

Nunc te ſcire vellemus, quod non debeo eſſe reprehendi pro feſtinando eundo ad Londinum, quia Deus eſt teſtis, quod non propero præ gloria, & pro me oſtendere; nam diabolus iſte qui me intravit, non eſt diabolus vanus, at conſobrinus ſuus Luciſer—ſed eſt diabolus amabundus, qui non vult ſinere me eſſe ſolum; nam cum non cumbendo cum uxore mea, ſum mentulatior quam par eſt—& ſum mortaliter in amore—& ſum fatuus; ergo tu me, mi care Antoni; excuſabis, quoniam tu fuiſti in amore, & per mare & per terras iviſti & feſtinaſti ſicut diabolus

eodem

eodem te propellente diabolo. Habeo umlta and te ſcribere—ſed ſcribo hanc epiſtolam in domo coffeatoria & plena ſociorum ſtrepitoſorum, qui non permittent me cogitare unam cogitationem.

SALUTA amicum Panty meum, cujus literis reſpondebo—ſaluta amicos in domo Gilbroſenſi, & oro, credas me vinculo conſobrinitatis & amoris ad te, mi Antoni, devinctiſſimum,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXX.

TO MR AND MRS J——.

York, December 23. 1767.

I WAS afraid that either Mr or Mrs J——, or their little bloſſom, was drooping—or that ſome of you were ill, by not having the pleaſure of a line from you, and was thinking of writing again to enquire after you all——when I was caſt down myſelf with a fever and bleeding at my lungs, which had confined me to my room near three weeks—when I had the favour of yours, which till to-day I have not been able to thank you both kindly for, as I moſt cordially now do—as well as for all your profeſſions and proofs of good-will to me.—I will not ſay I have not ballanced accounts with you in this—All I know is, that I honour and value you more than I do any good creatures upon earth——and that I could not wiſh your happineſs, and the ſucceſs

of

of whatever conduces to it, more than I do, was I your brother——but, good God! are we not all brothers and ſiſters, who are friendly, virtuous, and good? Surely, my dear friends, my illneſs has been a ſort of ſympathy for your afflictions upon the ſcore of your dear little one——I am worn down to a ſhadow; as my fever has left me, I ſet off the latter end of next week with my friend Mr Hall for town —I need not tell my friends in Gerrard-ſtreet, I ſhall do myſelf the honour to viſit them, before either Lord ——, or Lord ——, &c. &c.—I thank you, my dear friend, for what you ſay ſo kindly about my daughter——it ſhews your good heart, for as ſhe is a ſtranger, 'tis a free gift in you——but when ſhe is known to you, ſhe ſhall win it fairly—but, alas! when this event is to happen, is in the clouds. Mrs S—— has hired a houſe ready furniſhed at York, till ſhe returns to France, and my Lydia muſt not leave her.

WHAT a ſad ſcratch of a letter!—but I am weak my dear friends, both in body and mind——ſo God bleſs you——you will ſee me enter like a ghoſt —ſo I tell you before-hand not to be frightened.—I am, my dear friends, with the trueſt attachment and eſteem, ever yours,

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER CXXI.

TO THE SAME.

Old Bond-ſtreet, January 1. [1768.]

NOT knowing whether the moiſture of the weather will permit me to give my kind friends in Gerrard-ſtreet a call this morning for five minutes—I beg leave to ſend them all the good wiſhes, compliments, and reſpects I owe them.—— I continue to mend, and doubt not this, with all other evils and uncertainties of life, will end for the beſt. —I ſend all compliments to your fire-ſide this Sunday night—Miſs Aſcough the wife, Miſs Pigot the witty, your daughter the pretty, and ſo on.—If Lord O—— is with you, I beg my dear Mrs J—— will preſent the incloſed to him—'twill add to the millions of obligations I already owe you.—I am ſorry that I am no ſubſcriber to Soho this ſeaſon—it deprives me of a pleaſure worth twice the ſubſcription——but I am juſt going to ſend about their quarter of the town, to ſee if it is not too late to procure a ticket, undiſpoſed of, from ſome of my Soho friends; and if I can ſucceed, I will either ſend or wait upon you with it by half an hour after three to-morrow—if not, my friend will do me the juſtice to believe me truly miſerable.——I am half engaged, or more, for dinner on Sunday next, but will try to

get

get diſengaged in order to be with my friends.—— If I cannot, I will glide like a ſhadow uninvited to Gerrard-ſtreet ſome day this week, that we may eat our bread and meat in love and peace together. —God bleſs you both!—I am with the moſt ſincere regard,

Your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXXII.

TO THE SAME.

Old Bond-ſtreet, Monday.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE never been a moment at reſt ſince I wrote yeſterday about this Soho ticket—I have been at a Secretary of State to get one—have been upon one knee to my friends Sir G—— M——, Mr Laſcelles—and Mr Fitzmaurice—without mentioning five more——I believe I could as ſoon get you a place at court, for every body is going—but I will go out and try a new circle—and if you do not hear from me by a quarter after three, you may conclude I have been unfortunate in my ſupplications. —I ſend you this ſtate of the affair, leſt my ſilence ſhould make you think I had neglected what I promiſed—but no—Mrs J——knows me better, and would

would never ſuppoſe it would be out of the head of one who is with ſo much truth

Her faithful friend,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXXIII.

TO THE SAME.

Thurſday, Old Bond-ſtreet.

A THOUSAND thanks, and as many excuſes, my dear friends, for the trouble my blunder has given you. By a ſecond note, I am aſtoniſhed I could read Saturday for Sunday, or make any miſtake in a card wrote by Mrs J——s, in which my friend is as unrivalled, as in an hundred greater excellencies.

I AM now tied down neck and heels (twice over) by engagements every day this week, or moſt joyfully would have trod the old pleaſing road from Bond to Gerrard-ſtreet.—My books will be to be had on Thurſday, but poſſibly on Wedneſday in the afternoon.—I am quite well, but exhauſted with a room full of company every morning till dinner—How do I lament I cannot eat my morſel (which is always ſweet) with ſuch kind friends!—The Sunday following I will aſſuredly wait upon you both—and will come a quarter before four, that I may have both a little time and a little day-light to ſee Mrs J——'s

J——'s picture.—I beg leave to assure my friends of my gratitude for all their favours, with my sentimental thanks for every token of their good will.—Adieu, my dear friends—

I am truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXXIV.

FROM DR EUSTACE IN AMERICA, TO THE REV. MR STERNE, WITH A WALKING-STICK.

SIR,

WHEN I assure you that I am a great admirer of Tristram Shandy, and have, ever since his introduction into the world, been one of his most zealous defenders against the repeated assaults of prejudice and misapprehension, I hope you will not treat this unexpected appearance in his company as an intrusion.

You know it is an observation as remarkable for its truth as for its antiquity, that a similitude of sentiments is the general parent of friendship.—It cannot be wondered at, that I should conceive an esteem for a person whom nature had most indulgently enabled to frisk and curvet with ease through all these intricacies of sentiments, which, from irresistible propensity, she had impelled me to trudge through without merit or distinction.

THE only reaſon that gave riſe to this addreſs to you, is my accidentally having met with a piece of true Shandean ſtatuary, I mean, according to vulgar opinion, for to ſuch judges both appear equally deſtitute of regularity or deſign.—It was made by a very ingenious gentleman of this province, and preſented to the late governor Dobbs; after his death Mrs D. gave it me: its ſingularity made many deſirous of procuring it; but I had reſolved at firſt not to part with it, till, upon reflection, I thought it would be a very proper, and probably not an unacceptable compliment to my favourite author, and in his hands might prove as ample a field for meditation, as a button-hole, or a broom-ſtick.

I HAVE the honour to be, &c. &c.

LETTER CXXV.

MR STERNE'S ANSWER.

London, Feb. 9. 1768.

SIR,

I THIS moment received your obliging letter, and Shandean piece of ſculpture along with it, of both which teſtimonies of your regard I have the juſteſt ſenſe, and return you, dear Sir, my beſt thanks and acknowledgment. Your walking-ſtick is in no ſenſe more Shandaick, than in that of its having more handles than one; the parallel breaks only in this, that, in uſing the ſtick, every one will take

take the handle which ſuits his convenience. In Triſtram Shandy, the handle is taken which ſuits the paſſions, their ignorance, or their ſenſibility. There is ſo little true feeling in the herd of the world, that I wiſh I could have got an act of parliament, when the books firſt appeared, that none but wiſe men ſhould look into them. It is too much to write books, and find heads to underſtand them: the world, however, ſeems to come into a better temper about them, the people of genius here being to a man on its ſide; and the reception it has met with in France, Italy, and Germany, has engaged one part of the world to give it a ſecond reading. The other, in order to be on the ſtrongeſt ſide, has at length agreed to ſpeak well of it too. A few hypocrites and Tartuffes, whoſe approbation could do it nothing but diſhonour, remain unconverted.

I AM very proud, Sir, to have had a man like you on my ſide from the beginning; but it is not in the power of every one to taſte humour, however he may wiſh it; it is the gift of God; and, beſides, a true feeler always brings half the entertainment along with him; his own ideas are only called forth by what he reads, and the vibrations within him entirely correſpond with thoſe excited.—'Tis like reading himſelf——and not the book.

IN a week's time I ſhall be delivered of two volumes of the Sentimental Travels of Mr Yorick through France and Italy; but, alas! the ſhip ſails three days too ſoon, and I have but to lament it de-

prives me of the pleaſure of preſenting them to you.

BELIEVE me, dear Sir, with great thanks for the honour you have done me, with true eſteem,

Your obliged humble ſervant,

LAURENCE STERNE.

LETTER CXXVI.

TO D. S——N, ESQ.

Old Bond-ſtreet, Weneſday.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR commendations are very flattering. I know no one whoſe judgment I think more highly of, but your partiality for me is the only inſtance in which I can call it in queſtion.—Thanks, my good Sir, for the prints—I am much your debtor for them—if I recover from my ill ſtate of health, and live to reviſit Coxwould this ſummer, I will decorate my ſtudy with them, along with ſix beautiful pictures I have already of the ſculptures on poor Ovid's tomb, which were executed on marble at Rome—It grieves one to think ſuch a man ſhould have died in exile, who wrote ſo well on the art of love——Do not think me encroaching if I ſolicit a favour——'tis either to borrow, or beg (to beg if you pleaſe) ſome of thoſe touched with chalk which you brought from Italy—I believe you have three ſets, and if you can ſpare the imperfect one of

cattle

cattle on coloured paper, 'twill anſwer my purpoſe, which is namely this, to give a friend of ours.—You may be ignorant ſhe has a genius for drawing, and whatever ſhe excels in ſhe conceals, and her humility adds luſtre to her accompliſhments—I preſented her laſt year with colours, and an apparatus for painting, and gave her ſeveral leſſons before I left town.—I will her to follow this art, to be a complete miſtreſs of it——and it is ſingular enough, but not more ſingular than true, that ſhe does not know how to make a cow or a ſheep, though ſhe draws figures and landſcapes perfectly well: which makes me wiſh her to copy from good prints.—If you come to town next week, and dine where I am engaged next Sunday, call upon me and take me with you——I breakfaſt with Mr Beauclerc, and am engaged for an hour afterwards with Lord O——; ſo let our meeting be either at your houſe or my lodgings—in ſo do not be late, for we will go half an hour before dinner, to ſee a picture executed by Weſt, moſt admirably——he has caught the character of our friend——ſuch goodneſs is painted in that face, that when one looks at it, let the ſoul be ever ſo much unharmonized, it is impoſſible it ſhould remain ſo.—I will ſend you a ſet of my books——they will take with the generality—the woman will read this book in the parlour, and Triſtram in the bed-chamber.—Good night, dear Sir——I am going to take my whey, and then to bed. Believe me

Yours moſt truly,

LETTER CXXVII.

TO MISS STERNE.

February 20. Old Bond-ſtreet.

MY DEAREST LYDIA,

MY Sentimental Journey, you ſay, is admired in York by every one—and 'tis not vanity in me to tell you that it is no leſs admired here—but what is the gratification of my feelings on this occaſion?—The want of health bows me down, and vanity harbours not in thy father's breaſt—this vile influenza—be not alarmed, I think I ſhall get the better of it———and ſhall be with you both the firſt of May; and if I eſcape, 'twill not be for a long period, my child—unleſs a quiet retreat and peace of mind can reſtore me.—The ſubject of the letter has aſtoniſh'd me.—She could but know little of my feelings, to tell thee, that under the ſuppoſition I ſhould ſurvive thy mother, I ſhould bequeath thee as a legacy to ——— No, my Lydia! 'tis a lady whoſe virtues I wish thee to imitate, that I ſhall entruſt my girl to—I mean that friend whom I have ſo often talk'd and wrote about—from her you will learn to be an affectionate wife, a tender mother, and ſincere friend—and you cannot be intimate with her, without her pouring ſome part of the milk of human kindneſs into your breaſt, which will ſerve

to

to check the heat of your own temper, which you partake in a ſmall degree of.—Nor will that amiable woman put my Lydia under the painful neceſſity to fly to India for protection, whilſt it is in her power to grant her a more powerful one in England.—But I think my Lydia, that thy mother will ſurvive me—do not deject her ſpirits with thy apprehenſions on my account. I have ſent you a necklace, buckles, and the ſame to your mother.—My girl cannot form a wiſh that is in the power of her father, that he will not gratify her in—and I cannot in juſtice be leſs kind to thy mother.——I am never alone——The kindneſs of my friends is ever the ſame——I wiſh, though, I had thee to nurſe me—but I am deny'd that.—Write to me twice a week, at leaſt.——God bleſs thee, my child, and believe me ever, ever thy

Affectionate father,

L. S.

LETTER CXXVIII.

TO MRS J——.

Tueſday.

YOUR poor friend is ſcarce able to write—he has been at death's door this week with a pleuriſy——I was bled three times on Thurſday, and bliſter'd on Friday—The phyſician ſays I am better—God knows, for I feel myſelf ſadly wrong, and

ſhall, if I recover, be a long while of gaining ſtrength.—Before I have gone through half this letter, I muſt ſtop to reſt my weak hand above a dozen times.—Mr J—— was ſo good to call upon me yeſterday. I felt emotions not to be deſcribed at the ſight of him, and he overjoy'd me by talking a great deal of you.—Do, dear Mrs J——, entreat him to come to-morrow, or next day, for perhaps I have not many days, or hours, to live—I want to aſk a favour of him, if I find myſelf worſe—that I ſhall beg of you, if in this wreſtling I come off conqueror.—My ſpirits are fled—'tis a bad omen—do not weep, my dear Lady——your tears are too precious to ſhed for me—bottle them up, and may the cork never be drawn.—Deareſt, kindeſt, gentleſt, and beſt of woman! may health, peace, and happineſs prove your handmaids!—If I die, cheriſh the remembrance of me, and forget the follies which you ſo often condemn'd—which my heart, not my head, betrayed me into. Should my child, my Lydia, want a mother, may I hope you will (if ſhe is left parentleſs) take her to your boſom?——You are the only woman on earth I can depend upon for ſuch a benevolent action.—I wrote to her a fortnight ago *, and told her what I truſt ſhe would find in you.—Mr J—— will be a father to her—he will protect her from every inſult, for he wears a ſword which he has ſerved his country with, and which he would know how to draw out of the ſcabbard in defence of

* From this circumſtance it may be conjectured, that this letter was written on Tueſday the 8th of March 1768 ten days before Mr Sterne died.

innocence—Commend me to him——as I now commend you to that Being who takes under his care the good and kind part of the world.—Adieu—All grateful thanks to you and Mr J——

Your poor affectionate friend,

L. STERNE.

LETTER CXXIX.

TO *********.

——I BEHELD her tender look—her pathetic eye petrified my fluids—the liquid diſſolution drowned thoſe once bright orbs—the late ſympathetic features ſo pleaſing in their harmony, are now blaſted—withered—and are dead;—her charms are dwindled into a melancholy which demands my pity.—Yes——my friend—our once ſprightly and vivacious Harriot is that very object that muſt thrill your ſoul.—How abandoned is that heart which bulges the tear of innocence, and in the caſe—the fatal cauſe of overwhelming the ſpotleſs ſoul, and plunging the yet uncrainted mind into a ſea of ſorrow and repentance—Though born to protect the fair, does not man act the part of a Demon?—firſt alluring by his temptations, and then triumphing in his victory—When villainy gets the aſcendency, it ſeldom leaves the wretch till it has thoroughly polluted him——T*******, once the joyous companion of our juvenile extravagancies, by a deep laid ſcheme, ſo far ingra-

ingratiated himself into the good graces of the old man—that even he, with all his pretenſion and experience (of which old folks generally pique themſelves,) could not perceive his drift, and, like the goodneſs of his own heart, believed him honourable: ——had I known his pretenſions——I would have flown on the wings of friendſhip—of regard——of affection——and reſcued the lovely innocent from the hands of the ſpoiler:—be not alarmed at my declaration—I have been long bound to her in the reciprocal bonds of affection; but it is of a more delicate ſtamp than the groſs materials nature has planted in us for procreation—I hope ever to retain the idea of innocence, and love her ſtill:—I would love the whole ſex were they equally deſerving.

——————taking her by the hand——the other thrown round her waiſt—after an intimacy allowing ſuch freedoms——with a look deceitfully pleaſing, the villain poured out a torrent of proteſtations—and though oaths are ſacred—ſwore with all the fortitude of a conſcientious man——the depth of his love,—the height of his eſteem—the ſtrength of his attachment;—by theſe, and other artful means to anſwer his abandoned purpoſe (for which you know he is but too well qualified)—he gained on the open inexperienced heart of the generous Harriot, and robbed her of her brighteſt jewel.——Oh England! where are your ſenators?——where are your laws?——Ye Heavens! where reſts your deadly thunder?——why are your bolts reſtrained from o'erwhelming

whelming with vengeance this vile ſeducer?—I,—my friend, I was the miniſter ſent by juſtice to revenge her wrongs—revenge—I diſclaim it—to redreſs her wrongs.——The news of affliction flies—I heart it, and poſted to * * * *, where forgetting my character——this is the ſtyle of the enthuſiaſt——it moſt became my character—I ſaw him in his retreat——I flew out of the chaiſe—caught him by the collar—and in a tumult of paſſion—demanded—ſure. if anger is excuſable, it muſt be when it is excited by a deteſtation of vice——I demanded him to reſtore——alas! what was not in his power to return.—Vengeance——and ſhall theſe vermin—theſe ſpoilers of the fair—theſe murderers of the mind—lurk and creep about in dens, ſecure to themſelves, and pillage all around them?—Diſtracted with my rage——I charged him with this crime——exploded his baſeneſs——condemned his villainy——while coward guilt ſat on his ſullen brow, and, like a criminal conſcious of his deed, tremblingly pronounced his fear.—He hoped means might be found for a ſufficient atonement——offered a tender of his hand as a ſatisfaction, and a life devoted to her ſervice as a recompence for his error.—His humiliation ſtruck me—'twas the only means he could have contrived to aſſuage my anger—I heſitated—paused—thought——and ſtill muſt think on ſo important a concern:—aſſiſt me——I am half afraid of truſting my Harriot in the hands of a man,

whose character I too well know to be the antipodes of Harriot's—He all fire and diſſipation;—ſhe all meekneſs and ſentiment!—nor can I think there is any hopes of reformation;—the offer proceeds more from ſurpriſe or fear, than juſtice and ſincerity.—The world—the world will exclaim, and my Harriot be a caſt-off from ſociety——Let her—— I had rather ſee her thus, than miſerably linked for life to a lump of vice—She ſhall retire to ſome corner of the world, and there creep out the remainder of her days in ſorrow——forgetting the wretch who has abuſed her confidence, but ever remembering the friend who conſoles her in retirement.—You, my dear Charles, ſhall bear a part with me in the delightful taſk of whiſpering "peace to thoſe who "are in trouble, and healing the broken in ſpirit."

Adieu.

LAURENCE STERNE.

LETTER XXX.

TO THE SAME.

SIR,

I FEEL the weight of obligation which your friendſhip has laid upon me, and if it ſhould never be in my power to make you a recompence, I hope you will be recompenſed at the "reſurrection of the juſt."——I hope, Sir, we ſhall both be found in that catalogue;—and we are encouraged to hope,

by the ſame example of Abraham's faith, even "againſt hope."——I think there is, at leaſt, as much probability of our reaching and rejoicing in the "haven where we would be," as there was of the old Patriarch's having a child by his old wife.—There is not any perſon living or dead, whom I have ſo ſtrong a deſire to ſee and converſe with as yourſelf: Indeed I have no inclination to viſit, or ſay a ſyllable to put a few perſons in this lower vale of vanity and tears beſides you;—but I often derive a peculiar ſatisfaction in converſing with the ancient and modern dead,—who yet live and ſpeak excellently in their works.—My neighbours think me *often alone*,——and yet at ſuch times I am in company with more than five hundred mutes—each of whom, at my pleaſure, communicates his ideas to me by dum ſigns—quite as intelligibly as any perſon living can do by *uttering* of words.——They always keep the diſtance from me which I direct,—and, with a motion of my hand, I can bring them as near to me as I pleaſe.—I lay hands on fifty of them ſometimes in an evening, and handle them as I like;——they never complain of ill-uſage,—and, when diſmiſſed from my preſence——though ever ſo abruptly——take no offence. Such convenience is not to be enjoyed—nor ſuch liberty to be taken—with the living: we are bound—in point of good manners, to admit all our pretended friends when they knock for an entrance, and diſpence with all the nonſenſe or impertinence which they broach till they think proper

to

to withdraw: nor can we take the liberty of humbly and decently oppoſing their ſentiments without exciting their diſguſt, and being in danger of their ſplenetic repreſentation after they have left us.

I AM weary of talking to the *many*——who though quick of hearing——are ſo "ſlow of heart "to believe"——propoſitions which are next to ſelf-evident.—You and I were not caſt in *one mould* —corporal compariſon will atteſt it,—and yet we are faſhioned ſo much alike, that we may paſs for twins:—were it poſſible to take an inventory of all our ſentiments and feelings—juſt and unjuſt—holy and impure—there would appear as little difference between them as there is between inſtinct and reaſon, or—wit and madneſs; the barriers which ſeparate theſe—like the real eſſence of bodies—— eſcape the piercing eye of metaphyſics, and cannot be pointed out more clearly than geometricians define a ſtraight line, which is ſaid to have length without breadth.—O ye learned anatomical aggregates, who pretend to inſtruct other aggregates! be as candid as the ſage whom ye pretend to revere——and tell them, that all you know is, that you know nothing!

——I HAVE a *mort* to communicate to you, on different ſubjects—my mountain will be in labour till I ſee you—and then,—what then? why you muſt expect to ſee it bring forth—a mouſe.——I therefore beſeech you to have a watchful eye to the cats! —but it is ſaid that mice were deſigned to be killed by

by cats——cats to be worried by dogs, &c. &c.—This may be true—and I think I am made to be killed by my cough,——which is a perpetual plague to me: what, in the name of ſound lungs, has my cough to do with you——or——you with my cough?

I AM, Sir, with the moſt perfect affection and eſteem,

Your humble Servant,

LAURENCE STERNE.

LETTER CXXXI.

TO ****.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE received your kind letter of critical, and, I will add, of parental advice, which contrary to my natural humour, ſet me upon looking gravely for half a day together; ſometimes I concluded you had not ſpoke out, but had ſtronger grounds for your hints and cautions than what your good-nature knew how to tell me, eſpecially with regard to prudence, as a divine; and that you thought in your heart the vein of humour too free for the ſolemn colour of my coat. A meditation upon Death had been a more ſuitable trimming to it, I own; but then it could not have been ſet on by me. M. F——, whom I regarded in the claſs I do you, as my beſt of critics and well-wiſhers, preaches daily

daily to me on the ſame text: "Get your preferment firſt, Lory," he ſays, "and then write and welcome." But ſuppoſe preferment is long a-coming——and, for aught I know, I may not be preferred till the reſurrection of the juſt——and am all that time in labour, how muſt I bear my pains? Like pious divines? or, rather, like able philoſophers, knowing that one paſſion is only to be combated with another? But to be ſerious (if I can,) I will uſe all reaſonable caution,——only with this caution along with it, not to ſpoil my book, that is, the air and originality of it, which muſt reſemble the author; and I fear it is the number of theſe ſlighter touches, which make the reſemblance, and identify it from all others of the ſame ſtamp, which this under-ſtrapping virtue of prudence would oblige me to ſtrike out.——A very able critic, and one of my colour too, who has read over Triſtram, made anſwer, upon my ſaying I would conſider the colour of my coat as I corrected it, that that my idea in my head would render my book not worth a groat.——Still I promiſe to be cautious; but deny I have gone as far as Swift: he keeps a due diſtance from Rabelais; I keep a due diſtance from him. Swift has ſaid a hundred things I durſt not ſay unleſs I was Dean of St Patrick's.

I LIKE your caution, "ambitioſa recides orna-"menta." As I reviſe my book, I will ſhiver my conſcience upon that ſin, and whatever ornaments are of that kind ſhall be defaced without mercy.

Ovid

Ovid is juſtly cenſured for being "ingenii ſui ænator;" and it is a reaſonable hint to me, as I'm not ſure I am clear of it. To ſport too much with your wit, or the game that wit has pointed out, is forfeiting; like toying with a man's miſtreſs, it may be very delightful ſolacement to the inamorato, but little to the by-ſtandard. Though I plead guilty to part of the charge, yet it would greatly alleviate the crime, if my readers knew how much I have ſuppreſſed of this device.—I have burnt more wit than I have publiſhed, on that very account, ſince I began to avoid the fault, I fear. I may yet have given proofs of.——I will conſider Slop's fall, and my too minute deſcription of it; but, in general, I am perſuaded that the happineſs of the Cervantic humour ariſes from this very thing,——of deſcribing filly and trifling events with the circumſtantial pomp of great ones. Perhaps this is overloaded, and I can eaſe it.—I have a project of getting Triſtram put into the hands of the Archbiſhop, if he comes down this autumn, which will eaſe my mind of all trouble upon the topic of diſcretion.

I am &c.

L. STERNE.

LET-

LETTER CXXXII.

TO MR B.

Exeter, July 17, 1775.

SIR,

THIS was quite an *Impromptu* of Yorick's after he had been throughly *ſouſed*.——He drew it up in a few moments without ſtopping his pen. I ſhould be glad to ſee it in your intended collection of Mr Sterne's memoirs, &c. If you ſhall have a copy of it, you will be able to rectify a miſapplication of a term that Mr Sterne could never be guilty of, as one great excellence of his writing lies in the moſt happy choice of metaphors and alluſions—ſuch as ſhewed his philoſophic judgment, at the ſame time that they diſplay his wit and genius—but it is not for me to comment on, or correct ſo great an original.——I ſhould have ſent this fragment as ſoon as I ſaw Mrs Medalle's advertiſement, had I not been at a diſtance from my papers. I expect much entertainment from the poſthumous works of a man to whom no one is more indebted for amuſement and inſtruction, than,

Sir,

Your humble ſervant,

S. P.

AN

AN IMPROMPTU.

No—not one farthing would I give for ſuch a coat in wet weather, or dry——If the ſun ſhines, you are ſure of been melted, becauſe it cloſes ſo tight about one—if it rains, it is no more a defence than a cobweb—a very ſieve, o' my conſcience! that lets through every drop, and like many other things that are put on only for a cover, mortifies you with diſappointment, and makes you curſe the impoſture, when it is too late to avail one's ſelf of the diſcovery. Had I been wiſe, I ſhould have examined the claim the coat had to the title of "defender of the body"—before I had truſted my body in it.—I ſhould have held it up to the light, like other ſuſpicious matters, to have ſeen how much it was likely to admit of that which I wanted to keep out——whether it was no more than ſuch a frail, flimſy, contexture of fleſh and blood, as I am fated to carry about with me through every tract of this dirty world, could have comfortably and ſafely diſpenſed with in ſo ſhort a journey——taken into my account the chance of ſpreading trees——thick hedges o'erhanging the road——with twenty other coverts that a man may thruſt his head under——if he is not violently puſhed on by that d—d ſtimulus——you know where—that will not let a man ſit ſtill in one place for half a minute together—but like a young mettleſome tit is eternally on the fret, and is for puſhing on ſtill farther—or if the poor ſcared

devil

devil is not hunted tantivy by a hue and cry with gyves and a halter dangling before his eyes—Now in either caſe, he has not a minute to throw away in ſtanding ſtill, but, like King Lear, muſt brave "the peltings of a pitileſs ſtorm," and give heaven leave to "rumble its belly full——ſpit fire——or ſpout rain"——as ſpitefully as it pleaſeth, without finding the inclination or the reſolution to ſlacken his pace, leſt ſomething ſhould be loſt that might have been gained, or more gotten than he well knows how to get rid of——Now, had I acted with as much prudence as ſome other good folks——I could name many of them who have been made b——as within my remembrance, for having been hooded and muffled up in a larger quantity of this dark drab of mental manufacture than ever fell to my ſhare—and abſolutely for nothing elſe—as will be ſeen when they are undreſſed another day——Had I but as much as might have been taken out of their cloth without leſſening much of the ſize, or injuring in the leaſt the ſhape, or contracting aught of the doublings and foldings, or confining to a leſs circumference, the ſuperb ſweep of any one cloak that any one b——p ever wrapt himſelf up in——I ſhould never have given this coat a place upon my ſhoulders——I ſhould have ſeen by the light at one glance, how little it would keep out of rain, by how little it would keep in of darkneſs—This a coat for a rainy day? Do, pray, madam, hold it up to that window——did you ever ſee ſuch an *illuſtrious* coat ſince the

the day you could distinguish between a coat and a pair of breeches?——My lady did not understand derivatives, and so she could not see quite through my splendid pun. Pope Sixtus would have blinded her with the same "darkness of excessive light." What a flood of it breaks in through this tent? what an irradiation beams through that? what twinklings—what sparklings as you wave it before your eyes in the broad face of the sun? Make a fan out of it for the ladies to look at their gallants with at church—It has not served me for one purpose—it will serve them for two—This is coarse stuff——of worse manufacture than the cloth—Put it to its proper use, for I love when things sort and join well—Make a philtre* of it—while there is a drop to be extracted——I know but one thing in the world that will draw, drain, or suck like it——and that is——neither wool nor flax.—Make—make any thing of it, but a vile hypocrital coat for me——for I never can lay *sub Jove* (whatever Juno might) that "it is a pleasure to *be wet*."

L. STERNE.

THE

* This allusion is improper. A philtre originally signifies a love portion—and as it is used as a noun from the verb *philtrate*—it must signify a *strainer*, not a *sucker*—Cloth is sometimes used for the purpose of draining by means of its pores or capillary tubes, but its action is contrary to philtration. His meaning is obvious enough; but as he drew up this fragment without stopping his pen, as I was informed, it is no wonder he erred in the application of some of his terms.

THE FRAGMENT.

CHAP. I.

Shewing two Things; firſt, what a Rabelaic Fellow, LONGINUS RABELAICUS, *is; and ſecondly, how cavalierly he begins his Book.*

MY dear and thrice reverend brethren, as well archbiſhop and biſhops, as the *reſt* of the inferior clergy! would it not be a glorious thing, if any man of genius and capacity amongſt us for ſuch a work, was fully bent within himſelf, to ſit down immediately and compoſe a thorough ſtitch'd ſyſtem of the KERUKOPAEDIA, fairly ſetting forth to the beſt of his wit and memory, and collecting for that purpoſe, all that is needful to be known and underſtood of that art?——Of what art? cried PANURGE. Good God! anſwered LONGINUS, (making an exclamation, but taking care at the ſame time to moderate his voice,) why, of the art of making all kinds of your theological, hebdomical, roſtrummical, humdrummical what d'ye call 'ems—— I will be ſhot, quoth *Epiſtemon*, if all this ſtory of thine of a roaſted horſe ſimply no more than S——. Sauſages! quoth *Panurge*. Thou has fallen twelve feet and about five inches below the mark, anſwer'd

Epiſtemon, for I hold them to be *Sermons*——which ſaid word (as I take the matter) being but a word of low degree for a book of high rhetoric——*Longinus Rabelaicus* was foreminded to uſher and lead in his diſſertation with as much pomp and parade as he could afford;——and for my own part, either I know no more of Latin than my horſe, or the *Kerukopaedia* is nothing but the art of making 'em——And why not, quoth *Gymnaſt*, of preaching them when we have done?—Believe me, dear ſouls, this is half in half—and if ſome ſkilful body would but put us in a way to do this to ſome *tune*——Thou wouldſt not have them *chanted* ſurely? quoth *Tribulet*, laughing.—No, nor *canted* neither! quoth *Gymnaſt*, crying—but what I mean, my friends, ſays *Longinus Rabelaicus* (who is certainly one of the greateſt critics in the weſtern world, and as Rabelaic a fellow as ever exiſted)—what I mean, ſays he, interrupting them both, and reſuming his diſcourſe, is this, that if all the ſcatter'd rules of the *Kerukopaedia* could be but once carefully collected into one code, as thick as *Panurge's* head and the whole *cleanly* digeſted—(pooh, ſays *Panurge*, who felt himſelf aggrieved) and bound up, continued *Longinus*, by way of a regular inſtitute, and then put into the hands of every licenſed preacher in Great Britain and Ireland, juſt before he began to compoſe, I maintain it—I deny it flatly, quoth *Panurge*—What? anſwer'd *Longinus Rabelaicus*, with all the temper in the world.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

In which the Reader will begin to form a judgement of what an Hiſtorical, Dramatical, Anecdotical, Allegorical, and Comical kind of a Work he has got hold of.

HOMENAS, who has to preach next Sunday (before God knows whom) knowing nothing at all of the matter—was all this while at it as hard as he could drive in the very next room:——for, having fouled two clean ſheets of his own, and being quite ſtruck faſt in the entrance upon his third general *diviſion*, and finding himſelf unable to get either forwards or backwards with any grace——"Curſe it," ſays he, (thereby excommunicating every mother's ſon who ſhould think differently) "why may not a man lawfully call in for help in this, as well as any other human emergency?"——So, without any more argumentation, except ſtarting up and nimming down from the top ſhelf but one, the ſecond volume of *Clark*—though without any felonious intention in ſo doing, he had begun to clap me in (making a joint firſt) five whole pages, nine round paragraphs, and a dozen and a half of good thoughts all of a row; and, becauſe there was a confounded high gallery—was tranſcribing it away like a little devil. "Now," quoth *Homenas* to himſelf, "though I hold all this to be fair and ſquare, yet, if I am found out, there will be the deuce and all

to

to pay."—*Why are the bells ringing backwards, you lady? What is all that crowd about, honeſt man?* HOMENAS *was got upon Doctor* CLARK's *back ſir*—*And what of that, my lad? Why, an pleaſe you, he has broke his neck, and fractured his ſkull, and befouled himſelf into the bargain, by a fall from the pulpit two ſtories high.* Alas! poor *Homenas*! *Homenas* has done his buſineſs——*Homenas* will never preach more while breath is in his body.—No, faith, I ſhall never again be able to tickle it off as I have done. I may ſit up whole winter nights, baking my blood with hectic watchings, and write as ſolid as a *Father* of the church——or I may ſit down whole ſummer days, evaporating my ſpirits into the fineſt thoughts, and write as florid as a *Mother* of it.—In a word, I may compoſe myſelf off my legs, and preach till I burſt—and when I have done, it will be worſe than if not done at all.—*Pray Mr Such-a-one, who held forth laſt Sunday? Doctor Clark, I trow, ſays one. Pray, what Doctor Clark? ſays a ſecond: Why, Homenas's Doctor Clark, quoth a third.* O rare *Homenas*! cries a fourth; your *ſervant, Mr Homenas*, quoth a *fifth*.——'Twill be all over with me, by Heaven!——I may as well put the book from whence I took it.—Here *Homenas* burſt into a flood of tears, which falling down helter ſkelter, ding dong, without any kind of intermiſſion for ſix minutes and almoſt twenty-five ſeconds, had a marvellous effect upon this diſcourſe, for, the aforeſaid tears, do you mind, did

ſo temper the wind that was riſing upon the afore-ſaid diſcourſe, but, falling from the moſt part perpendicularly, and hitting the ſpirits at right angles, which were mounting horizontally all over the ſurface of his harangue, they not only played the devil and all with the ſublimity—but moreover, the ſaid tears, by their by their nitrous quality, did ſo refrigerate, precipitate, and hurry down to the bottom of his ſoul, all the unſavory particulars which lay fermenting (as you ſaw) in the middle of hie conception, that he went on in the cooleſt and chaſteſt ſtyle (for a *ſolil oquy* I think) that ever mortal man uttered.

"THIS is really and truly a very hard caſe," continued *Homenas* to himſelf—*Panurge*, by the by, and all the company in the next room, hearing all along every ſyllable he ſpoke; for you muſt know that notwithſtanding *Panurge* had opened his mouth as wide as he could for his blood, in order to give a round anſwer to *Longinus Rabelaicus's* interrogation which concluded the laſt chapter——yet *Homenas's* rhetoric had poured it ſo like a torrent, ſlap-dash through the wainſcot amongſt them, and happening at that *uncritical* criſis, when *Panurge* had juſt put his ugly face into the above-ſaid poſture of defence —that he ſtopt ſhort——he did indeed—and though his head was full of matter, and he had ſcrewed up every nerve and muſcle belonging to it, till all cried *crack* again in order to give a due projectile force to what he was going to let fly full in *Longinus Rabelaicus's* teeth, who ſat over againſt him—yet, for all

that

that, he had the continuence to contain himself, for he ſtopt ſhort, I ſay, without uttering one word except Z . . . ds—Many reaſons may be aſſigned for this; but the moſt true, the moſt ſtrong, the moſt hydroſtatical, and the moſt philoſophical reaſon, why *Panurge* did not go on, was—that the fore-mentioned *torrent* did ſo *drown* his voice, that he had none left to go on with.—God help him, poor fellow! ſo he ſtopt ſhort (as I have told you before)—and all the time *Homenas* was ſpeaking, he ſaid not another word, good or bad, but ſtood gaping and ſtaring, like what you pleaſe—ſo that the break, marked thus —which *Homenas's* grief had made in the middle of his diſcourſe, which he could no more help than he could fly——produced no other change in the room where *Longinus Rabelaicus, Epiſtemos, Gymnaſt, Triboulet*, and nine or ten more honeſt blades had got Kerukopædizing together, but that it gave time to *Gymnaſt* to give *Panurge* a good ſquaſhing chuck under his double chin: which *Panurge* taking in good part, and juſt as it was meant by *Gymnaſt*, he forthwith ſhut his mouth—and gently ſitting down upon a ſtool, though ſomewhat eccentrically and out of neighbour's row, but liſtening, as all the reſt did, with might and main, they plainly and diſtinctly heard every ſyllable of what you will find recorded in the very next chapter.

THE END VOL. VII.

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